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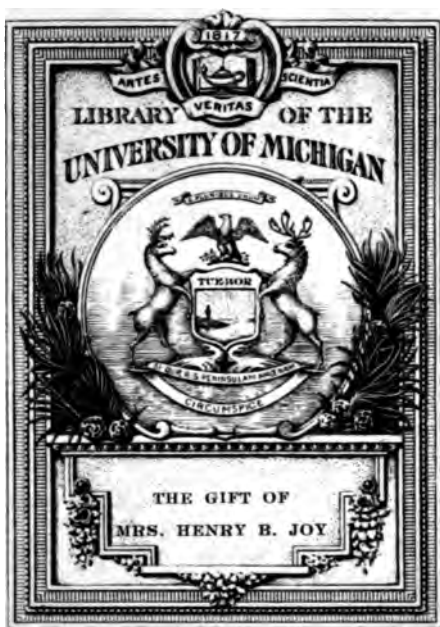
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A. Lincoln



The
Lincoln Year Book

**Containing Immortal Words
of Abraham Lincoln**

Spoken and Written on Various Occasions,
Preceded by Appropriate Scripture Texts
and Followed by Choice Poetic Selections
for Each Day in the Year, with Special
Reference to Anniversary Dates.

Compiled by
J. T. HOBSON, D.D., LL.B.

Twenty Hundred and Twelve
Press of United Brothers Publishing House
Boston, Ohio



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1907



St
Mrs. Henry B. Joy
8/15/46

PREFACE

This volume is unique, there being nothing like it in the broad field of Lincoln literature. It gives an insight to the mind and heart of Mr. Lincoln in a new form. Following each date for the calendar year there is an appropriate Scripture quotation, followed by the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln, the page closing with a choice poetic selection, all happily blended in similar lines of thought.


No irreverence is meant by quoting Scripture selections in connection with the words of Mr. Lincoln, for he was a Bible student, and often quoted from the Sacred Word. The authorized version of Scripture is used, it being more familiar with the masses, and was in exclusive use in Mr. Lincoln's day.

Mr. Lincoln was fond of poetic literature, particularly Shakespeare, and often recited and read from poetic authors for the entertainment and benefit of his friends.

The selections from Mr. Lincoln's spoken or written words are on a variety of subjects, under various circumstances, and at different periods of his life. It will be noted that the headings or topics chosen are his own words found in the selections that follow. Other headings might have been given in many instances, but such were chosen as would give the greatest variety. It should be observed that the selections, covering so many years, could not be arranged in chronological order in one calendar year because of conflicting dates.

The reader should be familiar with Lincoln chronology as given on page six, and also note the introductory words following each heading, so as to understand whether Mr. Lincoln speaks as a private citizen, lawyer, candidate, legislator, Congressman, or as President of the United States.

The Scripture selections have been chosen with care, the words of Lincoln carefully compiled from various sources, noted elsewhere, while the poetic selections gathered from newspapers,



magazines, pamphlets, and various books of poetry, form the cream of poetic literature. The author of each poetic selection is given when known to the compiler, but it is regretted that so many appear anonymously.

While the plan of the book is for reading each day of the year, yet the matter is appropriate and interesting for any time, and for miscellaneous reading. In the rearrangement, attention has been paid to appropriate selections for various anniversary occasions, although the words were not always uttered on such occasions.

Much time has been spent in gathering these selections, and in their arrangement, but it has been a pleasure; and it is hoped that many a pleasant hour will be spent in reading and studying these three departments of literature—the precious words of Scripture, the immortal words of the great emancipator, and the message of the muses.

J. T. H.



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CHRONOLOGY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Born in Hardin County, Kentucky, February 12, 1809.
Moved to Spencer County, Indiana, in 1816.
Death of his mother, Nancy, October 5, 1818.
Father married Sarah Bush Johnston, 1819.
Moved to Illinois in 1830.
Captain in Black Hawk War in 1832.
Appointed postmaster at New Salem, Illinois, in 1833.
Elected to Illinois Legislature in 1834, 1836, 1838, 1840.
Admitted to the bar in 1837.
Presidential elector on Whig ticket, 1840.
Married to Miss Mary Todd, November 4, 1842.
Elected to Congress in 1846, 1848.
Father, Thomas Lincoln, died January 17, 1851.
Canvassed Illinois for prohibition in 1855.
Debated with Stephen A. Douglas in 1858.
Nominated for President of United States at Chicago, May 16,
1860.
Elected President, November 6, 1860.
Inaugurated President, March 4, 1861.
Issued call for 75,000 volunteers, April 15, 1861.
Issued Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863.
Renominated for President, June, 1864.
Re-elected President, November 8, 1864.
Reinaugurated President, March 4, 1865.
Shot by John Wilkes Booth, April 14, 1865.
Died April 15, 1865.
Buried at Springfield, Illinois, May 3, 1865.

ANNIVERSARY DATES

Emancipation Day	January 1
Ground Hog Day	February 2
Lincoln's Birthday	February 12
Valentine Day	February 14
Washington's Birthday	February 22
Inauguration Day.....	March 4
All Fools' Day	April 1
Good Friday	April 14 (1865)
Arbor Day	April 22
Decoration Day	May 30
Children's Day	June 1
Flag Day	June 14
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 5
Hallowe'en	October 31
Thanksgiving Day	November 24 (1864)
Forefathers' Day	December 22
Christmas Day	December 25

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The compiler of this volume is chiefly indebted to the following sources of information on Lincoln literature, with privilege of using selections:

J. H. Barrett: "Life, Speeches, and Public Services of Abraham Lincoln."

F. B. Carpenter: "Six months at the White House." *The Independent*, New York.

J. B. McClure: "Anecdotes of Abraham Lincoln." Rhodes & McClure Publishing Co., Chicago.

D. D. Thompson: "Abraham Lincoln, the First American." Jennings & Graham, Cincinnati.

G. M. Van Buren: "Abraham Lincoln's Pen and Voice." The Robert Clarke Co., Cincinnati.

Paul Selby: "Stories and Speeches of Abraham Lincoln." Thompson & Thomas, Chicago.

John G. Nicolay: "Abraham Lincoln: A Short History." The Century Co., New York.

C. M. Nichols: "Life of Abraham Lincoln." The Crowell Publishing Co., Springfield, Ohio.

McClure's Magazine, New York.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 1 (Emancipation Day)

He hath sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. Isaiah 61:1.

Henceforth Shall be free.

(Emancipation Proclamation, issued January 1, 1863,
setting at liberty four million slaves.)

By virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are, and henceforward shall be free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons. . . . And upon this, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

*You freed the bondman from his iron master,
You broke the strong and cruel chains he wore;
You saved the ship of state from foul disaster,
And brought her safe to shore.*

—Eugene J. Hall.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 2

I have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth. II. Samuel 7:9.

My Name in History.

(To Mr. Seward, Secretary of State, on signing the Proclamation.)

I have been shaking hands since nine o'clock this morning, and my right hand is almost paralyzed. If my name ever goes into history, it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it. If my hand trembles when I sign the Proclamation, all who examine the document hereafter will say, "He hesitated."

(To Mr. Colfax.)

The South had fair warning. I told them in September that if they did not return to their duty I would strike at this pillar of their strength. The promise must now be kept, and I shall never recall one word.

(To Mr. F. B. Carpenter, in February, 1865.)

As affairs have turned, it is the central act of my Administration, and the greatest event of the nineteenth century.

*Nature, they say, doth dote
And cannot make a man
Save on some scorn-out plan,
Repeating us by rote:
For him her Old-World molds aside she threw,
And, choosing sweet clay from the breast
Of the unexhausted West,
With stuff untainted shaped a hero new,
Wise, steadfast in the strength of God, and true.*

—Lowell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 3

I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. Deuteronomy 30:19.

Slavery Must Die that the Nation Might Live.

(To Mr. George Thompson, the English anti-slavery orator.)

I did not consider that I had a right to touch the state institution of slavery until all other measures for restoring the Union had failed. The paramount idea of the Constitution is the preservation of the Union. It may not be specified in so many words, but that this was the idea of its founders is evident, for, without the Union, the Constitution would be worthless. It seems clear, then, that in the last extremity, if any local institution threatened the existence of the Union, the Executive could not hesitate as to his duty. In our case the moment came when I felt that slavery must die that the nation might live! I have sometimes used the illustration in this connection of a man with a diseased limb, and his surgeon. So long as there is a chance of the patient's restoration the surgeon is solemnly bound to try to save both life *and* limb; but when the crisis comes, and the limb must be sacrificed as the only chance of saving the life, no honest man will hesitate.

*Thy name shall live while time endures,
And men shall say of thee,
"He saved the country from its foes,
And bade the slave be free."*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 4

A wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. Ecclesiastes 8 : 5.

Public Sentiment.

(To Mr. George Thompson. Continued from preceding page.)

Many of my strongest supporters urged emancipation before I thought it indispensable and, I may say, before I thought the country ready for it. It is my conviction that, had the proclamation been issued six months earlier than it was, public sentiment would not have sustained it. The step, taken sooner, would not, in my judgment, have been carried out. A man watches his pear-tree day after day, impatient for the ripening of the fruit. Let him attempt to *force* the process, and he may spoil both fruit and tree. But let him patiently *wait*, and the ripe pear at length falls into his lap! We have seen this great revolution in public sentiment slowly but surely progressing, so that, when final action came, the opposition was not strong enough to defeat the purpose. I can now solemnly assert that I have a clear conscience in regard to my action on this momentous question. I have done what no man could have helped doing, standing in my place.

*Yes, this is he who ruled a world of men,
As might some prophet of elder day—
Brooding above the tempest and the fray,
With deep-eyed thought, and more than mortal ken,
A power was his beyond the touch of art,
Or armed strength—his pure and mighty heart.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 5

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men. Galatians 6 : 10.

Universal Amnesty and Universal Suffrage.

(From a letter to General Wadsworth.)

You desire to know, in the event of our complete success in the field, the same being followed by a loyal and cheerful submission on the part of the South, if universal amnesty should not be accompanied with universal suffrage. Now, since you know my private inclination as to what terms should be granted to the South in the contingency mentioned, I will here add that if our success should be thus realized, followed by such desired results, I cannot see, if universal amnesty is granted, how, under the circumstances, I can avoid exacting in return universal suffrage, or at least suffrage on the basis of intelligence and military service.

*In statesmen of heroic mold,
His country's great high priest,
Whose human heart could still unfold
All things the great, the least;
Who proved to earth that simple trust
Is more than Norman blood,
That he is crowned who can be just,
The great must first be good.*

—Mary M. Adams

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 6

Render therefore to all their dues. Romans 13:7.

Demonstrated in Blood Their Right to the Ballot.

(To General Wadsworth. Continued from preceding page.)

How to better the condition of the colored race has long been a study which has attracted my serious and careful attention; hence I think I am clear and decided as to what course I shall pursue in the premises, regarding it a religious duty, as the nation's guardian of these people who have so heroically vindicated their manhood on the battlefield, where, in assisting to save the life of the Republic, they have demonstrated in blood their right to the ballot, which is but the humane protection of the flag they have so fearlessly defended.

*A better day is coming, a morning promised long,
When girded Right, with holy Might, will overthrow the wrong;
When God the Lord will listen to every plaintive sigh,
And stretch his hand o'er every land with Justice by and by.*
—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 7

I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause. Job. 5 : 8.

The Cause of My Country.

(From a speech at Springfield, Illinois, in 1840.)

Many free countries have lost their liberty, and ours may lose hers; but if she shall, be it my proudest plume, not that I was the last to desert, but that I never deserted her. If I ever feel the soul within me elevate and expand to those dimensions not wholly unworthy of its Almighty Architect, it is when I contemplate the cause of my country deserted by all the world beside, and I, standing up boldly and alone, hurling defiance at her victorious oppressors. And here, without contemplating consequences, before high Heaven and in the face of the whole world, I swear eternal fidelity to the just cause, as I deem it, of the land of my life, my liberty, and my love. And who that thinks with me will not fearlessly adopt the oath I take?

*Man, throughout all ages of revolving time,
Unchanging man, in every varying clime,
Deems his own land of every land the pride,
Beloved by Heaven o'er all the world beside;
His home the spot of earth supremely blest,
A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest.*

—James Montgomery.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 8

The preacher sought to find out acceptable words. Ecclesiastes 12:10.

Plain Language.

(To Rev. J. P. Gulliver, in the early part of 1860.)

I can remember going to my little bedroom, after hearing the neighbors talk of an evening with my father, and spending no small part of the night walking up and down, and trying to make out what was the exact meaning of some of their, to me, dark sayings. I could not sleep, though I often tried to, when I got on such a hunt after an idea, until I had caught it; and when I thought I had got it, I was not satisfied until I had repeated it over and over, until I had put it in language plain enough, as I thought, for anybody I knew to comprehend. This was a kind of passion with me, and it has stuck to me; for I am never easy now, when I am handling a thought, till I have bounded it north, and bounded it south, and bounded it east, and bounded it west.

*The heights by great men gained and kept
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they while their companions slept
Were toiling upward in the night.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 9

A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight. Proverbs 11: 1.

Biography.

(Said to Mr. Herndon, his law partner in Springfield, after throwing a book on the table.)

No, sir, I've read enough of it. It is like all the others. Biographies, as generally written, are not only misleading but false. The author of that Life of Burke makes a wonderful hero out of his subject. He magnifies his perfections, and suppresses his imperfections. He is so faithful in his zeal, and so lavish in his praise of his every act, that one is almost driven to believe that Burke never made a mistake or failure in his life. Billy, I've wondered why book publishers and merchants don't have blank biographies on their shelves, ready for an emergency; so that if a man happens to die, his heirs or his friends, if they wish to perpetuate his memory, can purchase one already written, but with blanks. These blanks they can fill up at their pleasure with rosy sentences full of high-sounding praise. In most instances they commemorate a lie, and cheat posterity out of the truth.

*Historians, only things of weight,
Results of persons, or affairs of state,
Briefly, with truth and clearness should relate:
Laconic shortness memory feeds.*

—Heath.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 10

Opress not the widow, nor the fatherless. Zechariah 7:10.

Some Things Legally Right Not Morally Right.

(Said to a man who had an undesirable case.)

Yes, we can doubtless gain your case for you; we can set a whole neighborhood at loggerheads; we can distress a widowed mother and her six fatherless children, and thereby get for you six hundred dollars to which you seem to have a legal claim, but which rightly belongs, it appears to me, as much to the woman and children as it does to you. You must remember that some things legally right are not morally right. We shall not take your case, but will give you a little advice for which we will charge you nothing. You seem to be a sprightly, energetic man; we would advise you to try your hand at making six hundred dollars in some other way.

*We get back our mete as we measure—
We cannot do wrong and feel right,
Nor can we give pain and gain pleasure—
For justice avenges each slight.
The air for the wing of the sparrow,
The bush for the robin and wren,
But alway the path that is narrow
And straight, for the children of men.*

—Alice Cary.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 11

Every man with his staff in his hand. Zechariah 8:4.

Character in Canes.

(Addressed to a gentleman calling at the White House, with a cane, which the President held in his hand while he spoke.)

I always carried a cane when I was a boy. It was a freak of mine. My favorite one was a knotted beech stick, and I carved the head myself. There's a mighty amount of character in sticks; don't you think so? You have seen these fishing poles that fit into a cane? Well, that was an old idea of mine. Dogwood clubs were favorite ones with the boys. I suppose they use them yet. Hickory is too heavy unless you get it from a young sapling. Have you ever noticed how a stick in one's hands will change in appearance?

*A peaceful life—just toil and rest—
All his desire—
To read the books he liked the best
Beside the cabin fire;
God's Word and man's; to peer sometimes
Above the page in smouldering gleams,
And catch, like far heroic rhymes,
The onward march of his dreams.*

*A peaceful life—to hear the low
Of pastured herds,
Or woodman's as that, blow on blow,
Fell sweet as rhythmic words.
And yet there stirred within his breast
A fateful pulse that, like a roll
Of drums, made high above his rest
A tumult in his soul.*

—James Whitcomb Riley.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 12

There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:4.

A Joyful Meeting.

(Written to his stepbrother, John Johnson, January 12, 1851. Thomas Lincoln died January 17, 1851.)

I sincerely hope father may yet recover his health; but at all events tell him to remember to call upon and confide in our great and good and merciful Maker, who will not turn away from him in any extremity. He notes the fall of a sparrow, and numbers the hairs of our heads; and he will not forget the dying man who puts his trust in him. Say to him, that if we could meet now it is doubtful whether it would not be more painful than pleasant; but that if it be his lot to go now, he will soon have a joyful meeting with loved ones gone before, and where the rest of us, through the help of God, hope ere long to join them.

*Oh, how sweet it will be in that beautiful land,
So free from all sorrow and pain;
With songs on our lips, and with harps in our hands,
To meet one another again.*

—Mrs. Ellen H. Gates.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 13

Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee. Joshua 1:9.

The Age is Not Dead.

(Delivered in the Court House at Springfield, Illinois, in 1855, to an audience of only three persons. Mr. Herndon got out huge posters announcing the event, employed a band to drum up a crowd, and bells were rung. Mr. Lincoln was to have spoken on the slavery question.)

GENTLEMEN: This meeting is larger than I knew it would be, as I knew Herndon and myself would be here; and yet another one has come—you, John Pain [the janitor]. These are bad times, and seem out of joint. All seems dead, *dead*, DEAD; but the age is not yet dead; it liveth as sure as our Maker liveth. Under all this seeming want of life and motion, the world does move nevertheless. Be hopeful. And now let us adjourn and appeal to the people.

*"Press on! there's no such word as fail;
Press nobly on! the goal is near—
Ascend the mountain! breast the gale!
Look upward, onward—never fear!
Why shouldst thou faint? Heaven smiles above,
Though storm and vapor intervene;
The sun shines on, whose name is Love,
Serenely o'er life's shadow'd scene.*

*"Press on! if Fortune play thee false
To-day, to-morrow she'll be true;
Whom now she sinks she now exalts,
Taking old gifts and granting new.
The wisdom of the present hour
Makes up for follies past and gone;
To weakness strength succeeds, and power
From frailty springs—press on! press on!"*

—Park Benjamin.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 14

They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power.
Psalms 145: 11.

Breaking Down of Civil and Religious Tyrannies.

(Said after hearing a sermon by Rev. Dr. Peter Akers,
near Springfield, Illinois, in 1837.)

It was the most instructive sermon, and he is the most impressive preacher I have ever heard. It is wonderful that God has given such power to men. I firmly believe his interpretation of prophecy, so far as I understand it, and especially about the breaking down of civil and religious tyrannies; and, odd as it may seem, when he described those changes and revolutions, I was deeply impressed that I should be somehow strangely mixed up with them.

*So he grew up, a destined work to do,
And lived to do it; four long suffering years,
Ill fate, ill feeling, ill report lived through,
And then he heard the hisses change to cheers,*

*The taunts to tribute, the abuse to praise,
And took both with the same uncovering mood;
Till, as he came forth from the darkling days,
And seemed to touch the goal from where he stood.*

—Tom Taylor.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 15

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. II. Timothy 3 : 16.

I Have Carefully Read the Bible.

(To Mr. Newton Bateman, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Illinois, in looking over a book containing the canvass of Springfield voters in 1860.)

Here are twenty-three ministers of different denominations, and all of them are against me but three, and here are a great many prominent members of churches, a very large majority are against me. Mr. Bateman, I am not a Christian. God knows I would be one—but I have carefully read the Bible, and I do not so understand this book [he drew forth a pocket New Testament]. These men well know that I am for freedom in the Territories, freedom everywhere, as free as the Constitution and the laws will permit, and that my opponents are for slavery. They know this, and yet with this book in their hands, in the light of which human bondage cannot live a moment, they are going to vote against me! I do not understand it at all.

*Within this ample volume lies
The mystery of mysteries,
Happiest they of the human race,
To whom their God has given grace
To read, to fear, to hope, to pray,
To lift the latch, to force the way;
And better had they ne'er been born,
That read to doubt, or read to scorn.*

—Sir Walter Scott.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 16

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalms 46:1.

With God's Help I Shall Not Fail.

(To Mr. Bateman. Continued from preceding page.)

I know there is a God, and that he hates injustice and slavery. I see the storm coming, and I know that his hand is in it. If he has a place and work for me, and I think he has, I believe I am ready. I am nothing, but Truth is everything. I know I am right, because I know that liberty is right, for Christ teaches it, and Christ is God. I have told them that "a house divided against itself cannot stand"; and Christ and reason say the same; and they will find it so. Douglas doesn't care whether slavery is voted up or down, but God cares, and humanity cares, and I care; but it will come, and I shall be vindicated; and these men will find that they have not read their Bibles right.

*I, the Lord, am with thee. be not thou afraid;
I will help and strengthen, be thou not dismayed.
Yea, I will uphold thee with my own right hand;
Thou art called and chosen in my sight to stand.*

—Frances Ridley Havergal.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 17

**Their rock is not our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.
Deuteronomy 32 : 31.**

This Rock on Which I Stand.

(To Mr. Bateman. Continued from preceding page.)

Doesn't it seem strange that men can ignore the moral aspect of this contest? A revelation could not make it plainer to me that slavery or the Government must be destroyed. The future would be something awful, as I look at it, but for this rock on which I stand [alluding to the New Testament, which he still held in his hand], especially with the knowledge of how these ministers are going to vote. It seems as if God had borne with this thing [slavery] until the teachers of religion have come to defend it from the Bible, and to claim for it a divine character and sanction; and now the cup of iniquity is full, and the vials of wrath will be poured out.

*But patient struggling in the right,
And suffering wrong that right may win,
Achieves the victory final, bright,
O'er foes without and fears within.
It must be so, for right must win,
Since God is God and sin is sin.*

—Milton.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 18

Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.
Genesis 15: 1.

In the Garden of Gethsemane.

(Said to Judge Gillespie at Lincoln's home in Springfield,
Illinois, January, 1861.)

Gillespie, I would willingly take out of my life a period in years equal to the two months which intervene between now and my inauguration. Because every hour adds to the difficulties I am called upon to meet, and the present administration does nothing to check the tendency towards dissolution. I, who have been called to meet this awful responsibility, am compelled to remain here, doing nothing to avert it or lessen its force when it comes to me. I see the duty devolving upon me. I have read upon my knees the story of Gethsemane, when the Son of God prayed in vain that the cup of bitterness might pass from him. I am in the Garden of Gethsemane now, and my cup of bitterness is full to overflowing.

*Each one has his Gethsemane; for each there is a day
When he shall halt, fear-stricken by the darkness in the way;
When he, faint-hearted, weary of the griefs he yet must bear,
Shall turn aside into the shade and soothing calmness there—
Shall turn aside and bow his head, and on his bended knees
Pray that he may not take the cup and drain it to the lees.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 19

All nations shall call you blessed. Malachi 3 : 12.

Perpetual Peace and Friendship.

(Extracts from a letter written January 19, 1863, in reply to a testimonial of sympathy and confidence from the workmen of Manchester, England.)

When I came on the 4th of March, 1861, through a free and constitutional election, to preside in the government of the United States, the country was found at the verge of civil war. Whatever might have been the cause, or whosoever the fault, one duty paramount to all others was before me, namely, to maintain and preserve at once the Constitution and the Federal Republic. A conscientious purpose to perform this duty is the key to all the measures of administration which have been, and to all which will hereafter be pursued. . . . It is now a pleasant duty to acknowledge the demonstration you have given of your desire that a spirit of peace and amity toward this country may prevail in the councils of your Queen, who is respected and esteemed in your own country only more than she is by the kindred nation which has its home on this side of the Atlantic. . . . I hail this interchange of sentiment, therefore, as an augury that, whatever else may happen, whatever misfortune may befall your country or my own, the peace and friendship which now exist between the two nations will be, as it shall be my desire to make them, perpetual.

*Columbia, child of Britain—noblest child;
I praise the glowing luster of thy youth,
And fain would see thy great heart reconciled
To love the mother of so blest a birth:
For we are one Columbia! still the same
In lineage, language, and ancient fame.
The natural nobility of earth.*

—Tupper.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 20

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord.
Revelation 11: 15.

Norway and Sweden.

(Reply to speech of minister representing the Kingdom of
Norway and Sweden, January 20, 1865.)

My memory does not recall an instance of disagreement between Sweden and the United States. Your predecessor was most agreeable in his intercourses with this Government, and I greet you with the same good feeling which was entertained for him while he resided with us. . . . You may be assured that on my part every occasion will be improved to exhibit the sincere desire which this Government entertains for the prosperity and welfare of the Government and Kingdom of Sweden and Norway.

*America! the sound is like a sword
To smite th' oppressor! like a loving word
To cheer the suffering people, while they pray
That God would hasten on the promised day
When earth shall be like heaven, and men shall stand
Like brothers round an altar, hand in hand.
Oh! ever thus, America, be strong—
Like cataracts' thunder pour the freeman's song,
Till struggling Europe joins the glad refrain.
And startled Asia bursts the despot's chain;
And Africa's manumitted sons, from thee
To their own fatherland shall bear the song—
Worth all their toils and tears—of Liberty:
For these good deeds, America, be strong!*

—Mrs. Hale.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 21

Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. Titus 2:6.

To the Young Men.

(Reported by W. H. Herndon.)

Now, as to the young men. You must not wait to be brought forward by the older men. For instance, do you suppose that I should ever have got into notice if I had waited to be hunted up and pushed forward by older men? The way for a young man to rise is to improve himself every way he can, never suspecting that anybody wishes to hinder him. Allow me to assure you that suspicion and jealousy never did help any man in any situation. There may sometimes be ungenerous attempts to keep a young man down; and they will succeed, too, if he allows his mind to be diverted from its true channel to brood over the attempted injury. Cast about, and see if this feeling has not injured every person you have ever known to fall into it.

*Let, us then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.*

—Longfellow.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 23

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Matthew 22 : 40.

The Savior's Condensed Statement.

(To Honorable H. C. Deming, of Connecticut.)

I have never united myself to any church, because I have found difficulty in giving my assent, without mental reservation, to the long, complicated statements of Christian doctrine which characterize their Articles of Belief and Confessions of Faith. When any church will inscribe over its altar, as its sole qualification of membership, the Savior's condensed statement of the substance of both law and gospel, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself," that church will I join with all my heart and all my soul.

*Had I the tongue of Greeks and Jews,
And nobler speech than angels use ;
If love be absent, I am found,
Like tinkling brass, an empty sound.
If love to God, and love to man
Be absent, all my hopes are vain ;
Nor tongues, nor gifts, nor fiery seal
The work of love can e'er fulfil.*

—Watts.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 23

Wisdom is better than weapons of war. Ecclesiastes 9:18.

A Military Hero.

(Lincoln was a captain in the Black Hawk war of 1832. The following humorous speech was delivered in Congress in 1848 by way of sarcasm on the efforts of General Cass's friends to render him conspicuous as a military hero. Cass was a candidate for President of the United States.)

By the way, Mr. Speaker, did you know that I am a military hero? Yes, sir, in the days of the Black Hawk War I fought, bled, and came away. Speaking of General Cass's career reminds me of my own. I was not at Stillman's defeat, but I was about as near it as Cass to Hull's surrender; and, like him, I saw the place very soon afterward. It is quite certain I did not break my sword, for I had none to break; but I bent a musket pretty badly on one occasion. If Cass broke his sword, the idea is that he broke it in desperation; I bent the musket by accident. If General Cass went in advance of me in picking whortleberries, I guess I surpassed him in charges upon the wild onions. If he saw any live fighting Indians, it was more than I did, but I had a good many bloody struggles with the mosquitoes; and although I never fainted from loss of blood, I can truly say that I was often hungry. Mr. Speaker, if I should ever conclude to doff whatever our Democratic friends may suppose there is of black-cockade Federalism about me, and, thereupon, they should take me up as their candidate for the Presidency, I protest that they shall not make fun of me, as they have of General Cass, by attempting to write me into a military hero.

*Chosen for large designs, he had the art
Of winning with his humor, and he went
Straight to his mark, which was the human heart,
Wise, too, for what he could not break he bent.*

—R. H. Stoddard.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 24

I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom,
and the reason of things. Ecclesiastes 7: 25.

What "Demonstrate" Means.

(To Rev. J. P. Gulliver, in 1860.)

In the course of my law reading I constantly came upon the word *demonstrate*. I thought at first I understood its meaning, but soon became satisfied that I did not. I said to myself, "What do I mean when I *demonstrate* more than when I *reason* or *prove*? How does *demonstration* differ from any other proof?" I consulted Webster's Dictionary. That told me of "certain proof," "proof beyond the possibility of doubt"; but I could form no idea what sort of proof that was. I thought a great many things were proved beyond a possibility of doubt, without recourse to any such extraordinary process of reasoning as I understood "demonstration" to be. I consulted all the dictionaries and books of reference I could find, but with no better results. You might as well have defined *blue* to a blind man. At last I said, "Lincoln, you can never make a lawyer if you do not know what *demonstrate* means"; and I left my situation in Springfield, went home to my father's house, and stayed there till I could give any proposition in the six books of Euclid at sight. I then found out what "demonstrate" means, and went back to my law studies.

*The man who seeks one thing in life, and but one,
May hope to achieve it before life be done;
But he who seeks all things, wherever he goes,
Only reaps from the hopes which around him he sows
A harvest of barren regrets.*

—Owen Meredith.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 25

Help those women which labored with me in the gospel. Philippians 4 : 3.

The Women of America.

(In reply to a delegation of ladies and gentlemen from Philadelphia, who presented a vase of leaves from the battlefield of Gettysburg, January 25, 1865.)

I accept, with emotions of profoundest gratitude, the beautiful gift you have been pleased to present to me. You will, of course, expect that I acknowledge it. So much has been said about Gettysburg, and so well said, that for me to attempt to say any more may, perhaps, only serve to weaken the force of that which has already been said. A most graceful and eloquent tribute was paid to the patriotism and self-denying labors of the American ladies, on the occasion of the consecration of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, by our illustrious friend, Edward Everett, now, alas! departed from earth. His life was truly a great one, and I think the greatest part of it was that which crowned its closing years. I wish you to read, if you have not already done so, the glowing and eloquent and truthful words which he then spoke of the women of America. Truly, the service they have rendered to the defenders of our country in this perilous time, and are yet rendering, can never be estimated as it ought to be. For your kind wishes to me, personally, I beg leave to render you, likewise, my sincerest thanks. I assure you they are reciprocated. And now, gentlemen and ladies, may God bless you all.

*A perfect woman, nobly plann'd,
To warn, to comfort, and command;
And yet a spirit still and bright,
With something of an angel light.*

—Wordsworth.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 26

Before honor is humility. Proverbs 15:33.

Candidate for the Legislature.

(First political speech delivered at Paperville, Illinois, in 1832, when twenty-three years of age, in announcing himself as a Whig candidate for the Legislature, after a lengthy speech by an opposing candidate.)

GENTLEMEN, FELLOW-CITIZENS: I presume you all know who I am. I am humble Abraham Lincoln. I have been solicited by many friends to become a candidate for the Legislature. My politics can be briefly stated. I am in favor of a national bank. I am in favor of the internal improvement system, and a high protective tariff. These are my sentiments and political principles. If elected, I shall be thankful; if not, it will be all the same.

*I may not reach the heights I seek,
My untried strength may fall me;
Or, half-way up the mountain peak,
Fierce tempest may assail me.
But though that place I never gain,
Herein lies comfort for my pain,
I will be worthy of it.*

*I may not triumph in success,
Despite my earnest labor;
I may not grasp results that bless
The efforts of my neighbor.
But though my goal I never see,
This thought shall always dwell with me—
I will be worthy of it.*

*The golden glory of love's light
May never fall upon my way;
My path may always lead through night,
Like some deserted by-way.
But though life's dearest joy I miss,
There lies a nameless joy in this—
I will be worthy of it.*

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 27

This land shall fall unto you for inheritance. Ezeziel 47:14.

Legal Inheritors of Fundamental Blessings.

(Extract from an address delivered January 27, 1838, before the Young Men's Lyceum at Springfield, Illinois.)

In the great journal of things happening under the sun, the American people find our account running under date of the nineteenth century of the Christian era. We find ourselves in peaceful possession of the fairest portion of the earth as regards extent of territory, fertility of soil, and salubrity of climate. We find ourselves under the government of a system of political institutions conducing more essentially to the ends of civil and religious liberty, than any of which the history of former times tells us. We find ourselves the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in the acquirement nor the establishment of them; they are a legacy bequeathed to us by a once hardy, brave, and patriotic, but now lamented and departed race of ancestors.

*Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said:
"This is my own, my native land?"
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned
As home his footsteps he hath turned
From wandering on a foreign strand?*

—Sir Walter Scott.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 28

The nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish. Isaiah 60: 12.

The Approach of Danger.

(Extract from the Springfield address in 1838. Continued from preceding page.)

At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant to step the ocean and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia, and Africa combined, with all the treasures of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest, with a Bonaparte for a commander, could not, by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years. At what point, then, is this approach of danger to be expected? I answer: If it ever reaches us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time or die by suicide.

*When our land is illumined with liberty's smile,
If a foe from within strike a blow at her glory,
Down, down with the traitor that dares to defile
The flag of her stars and the page of her story!
By the millions unchained who our birthright have gained,
We will keep her bright blazon forever unstained!*
—Francis Scott Key.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 29

Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. I. Kings 1:5.

Towering Genius.

(Extract from Springfield address. Continued from preceding page.)

Towering genius disdains a beaten path. It seeks regions hitherto unexplored. It does not add story to story upon the monuments of fame erected to the memory of others. It denies that it is glory enough to serve under any chief. It scorns to tread in the footsteps of any predecessor, however illustrious. It thirsts and burns for distinction, and, if possible, will have it, whether at the expense of emancipating slaves, or enslaving free men. Is it unreasonable, then, to expect that some man possessed with the loftiest genius, coupled with ambition sufficient to push it to its utmost stretch, will at some time spring up among us? And when such an one does, it will require the people to be united, attached to the government and laws, and generally intelligent, to successfully frustrate the design.

*There is a line by us unseen,
That crosses every path;
The hidden boundary between
God's mercy and his wrath.*

*There is a time, we know not when,
A place, we know not where,
Which seals the destiny of men
To glory or despair.*

—Dr. Alexander.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 30

None of these things move me. neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy. Acts 20 : 24.

In the Hands of the People.

(Interview published in the New York Tribune, January 30, 1861.)

I will suffer death before I will consent or advise my friends to consent to any concession or compromise which looks like buying the privilege of taking possession of the Government to which we have a constitutional right; because, whatever I might think of the merit of the various propositions before Congress, I should regard any concession in the face of menace as the destruction of the Government itself, and a consent on all hands that our system shall be brought down to a level with the existing disorganized state of affairs in Mexico. But this thing will hereafter be, as it is now, in the hands of the people, and if they desire to call a convention to remove any grievances complained of, or to give new guarantees for the permanence of vested rights, it is not mine to oppose.

*God give us men!
A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor; men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue
And scorn his treacherous flatteries without winking;
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking.*

—J. G. Holland.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JANUARY 31

Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Matthew 6:34.

Fox River.

(To a Springfield neighbor, a minister who wished to know as to his future policy on the slavery question.)

You know Father B., the old Methodist preacher? and you know Fox River and its freshets? Well, once in the presence of Father B., a young Methodist was worrying about Fox River, and expressing fears that he should be prevented from filling some of his appointments by a freshet in the river. Father B. checked him in his gravest manner. Said he, "Young man, I have always made it a rule in my life not to cross Fox River till I get to it." And I am not going to worry myself over the slavery question till I get to it.

*Too curious man, why dost thou seek to know
Events which, good or ill, foreknown, or woe?
Th' all-seeing power that made thee mortal, gave
Thee everything a mortal state should have;
Foreknowledge only is enjoy'd by heaven;
And, for his peace of mind, to man forbidden:
Wretched were life, if he foreknew his doom;
Even joys foreseen give pleasing hope no room,
And griefs assur'd are felt before they come.*

—Dryden.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 1

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings ;
he shall not stand before mean men. Proverbs 22 : 29.

Commendations from Literary and Learned Men.

(To Rev. J. P. Gulliver, of Norwich, Connecticut, in 1860.)

A most extraordinary circumstance occurred in New Haven the other day. They told me that the professor of rhetoric in Yale College—a very learned man, isn't he? well, he ought to be, at any rate—they told me that he came to hear me, and took notes of my speech, and gave a lecture on it to his class the next day; and not satisfied with that, he followed me up to Meriden the next evening, and heard me again for the same purpose. Now, if this is so, it is to my mind very extraordinary. I have been sufficiently astonished at my success in the West. It has been most unexpected. But I had no thought of any marked success at the East, and least of all that I should draw out such commendations from literary and learned men.

*Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;
Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, may take heart again.*

—Longfellow.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 2 (Ground Hog Day)

A prudent man foreseeth the evil. Proverbs 22: 8.

Root, Hog, or Die.

(In reply to Mr. Hunter, February 3, 1865, who stated that as slaves were accustomed to work under compulsion, by being suddenly freed it would bring ruin on the South, and whites and blacks would starve together.)

I can only say, in reply to your statement of the case, that it reminds me of a man out in Illinois, by the name of Case, who undertook, a few years ago, to raise a very large herd of hogs. It was a great trouble to feed them; and how to get around this was a puzzle to him. At length he hit upon the plan of planting an immense field of potatoes, and, when they were sufficiently grown, he turned the whole herd into the field and let them have full swing, thus saving not only the labor of feeding the hogs, but that also of digging the potatoes! Charmed with his sagacity, he stood one day leaning against the fence, counting his hogs, when a neighbor came along. "Well, well," said he, "Mr. Case, this is all very fine. Your hogs are doing very well just now; but you know out here in Illinois the frost comes early, and the ground freezes a foot deep. Then what are you going to do?" This was a view of the matter which Mr. Case had not taken into account. Butchering time for hogs was away on in December or January. He scratched his head and at length stammered, "Well, it may come pretty hard on their snouts, but I don't see but it will be root, hog, or die."

*Prudence, thou vainly in our youth art sought,
And with age purchas'd, art too dearly bought:
We're past the use of wit for which we toil:
Late fruit, and planted in too cold a soil.*

—Dryden.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 3

Wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it. Ecclesiastes 7:12.

Our Support and Defense.

(Extract from address before Young Men's Lyceum, Springfield, Illinois, January, 1838.)

Reason—cold, calculating, unimpassionate reason—must furnish all the materials for our support and defense. Let those materials be molded into general intelligence, sound morality, and, in particular, a reverence for the Constitution and the laws; and then our country shall continue to improve, and our nation, revering his name, and permitting no hostile foot to pass or desecrate his resting-place, shall be the first to hear the last trump that shall awaken our Washington. Upon these let the proud fabric of freedom rest as the rock of its basis, and, as truly as has been said of the only greater institution, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

*Defend us, Lord, from every ill;
Strengthen our hearts to do thy will;
In all we plan and all we do,
Still keep us to thy service true.*

*Thou who art Light, shine on each soul!
Thou who art Truth, each mind control!
Open our eyes, and make us see
The path which leads to heaven and thee!*

—John Hay.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 4

And they shall make a spoil of thy riches, and make a prey of thy merchandise. Ezeziel 26:12.

The Traitor forfeits His Property.

(His views on the Confiscation Act, passed by Congress and approved by the President, July 17, 1862.)

It is startling to say that Congress can free a slave within a State, and yet were it said that the ownership of a slave had first been transferred to the nation, and that Congress had then liberated him, the difficulty would vanish; and this is the real case. The traitor against the general Government forfeits his slave at least as justly as he does any other property, and he forfeits both to the Government against which he offends. The Government, so far as there can be ownership, owns the forfeited slaves, and the question for Congress in regard to them is, Shall they be made free or sold to new masters? I see no objection to Congress deciding in advance that they shall be free.

*You have among you many a purchased slave,
Which, like your asses, and your dogs, and mules,
You use in abject and in slavish parts
Because you bought them.*

—Shakespeare.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 5

Let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment. *Ezra* 7: 26.

Pay the Cost of a Causeless War.

(In defense of the Confiscation Act, passed by Congress, July 17, 1862. Continued from preceding page.)

That those who make a causeless war should be compelled to pay the cost of it, is too obviously just to be called in question. To give Government protection to the property of persons who have abandoned it, and gone on a crusade to overthrow the same Government, is absurd, if considered in the mere light of justice. The severest justice may not always be the best policy. . . . I think our military commanders, when, in military phrase, they are within the enemy's country, should, in an orderly manner, seize and keep whatever of real or personal property may be necessary or convenient for their commands, and at the same time preserve in some way the evidence of what they do.

*And many an old man's sigh, and many a widow's,
And many an orphan's water-standing eye—
Men for their sons', wives for their husbands' fate,
And orphans for their parents' timeless death,—
Shall rue the hour that ever thou wast born.*

—*Shakespeare.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 6

My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. Job, 10:1.

My Position is Not a Bed of Roses.

(To an old and intimate friend from Springfield, Illinois.)

You know better than any man living that from my boyhood up my ambition was to be President. I am President of one part of this divided country at least; but look at me! Oh, I wish I had never been born! I've a white elephant on my hands, one hard to manage. With a fire in my front and rear to contend with, the jealousies of the military commanders, and not receiving that cordial coöperative support from Congress that could reasonably be expected, with an active and formidable enemy in the field threatening the very life-blood of the Government, my position is anything but a bed of roses.

*Alas! I have not words to tell my grief;
To vent my sorrow would be some relief;
Light sufferings give us leisure to complain;
We groan, but cannot speak, in greater pain.*

—Dryden.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 7

The mighty man, . . . the judge, . . . the counsellor, . . . and the eloquent orator. Isaiah 3:2, 3.

Judge Douglas.

(The following generous allusion was made to Honorable Stephen A. Douglas in a speech in 1856.)

Twenty years ago Judge Douglas and I first became acquainted. We were both young then, he a trifle younger than I. Even then we were both ambitious—I, perhaps, quite as much as he. With me the race of ambition has been a failure. With him it has been a splendid success. His name fills the nation, and it is not unknown in foreign lands. I affect no contempt for the high eminence he has reached; so reached that the oppressed of my species might have shared with me in the elevation, I would rather stand on that eminence that wear the richest crown that ever pressed a monarch's brow.

*The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Await alike the inevitable hour;
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.*

—Gray.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 8

Let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people. I. Chronicles 19:13.

An Overmatch,

(To Brigadier-General Buell, January 13, 1862, in answer to a dispatch.)

With this preliminary I state my general idea of this war to be, that we have the greater numbers and the enemy has the greater facility of concentrating forces upon points of collision; that we must fall unless we can find some way of making our advantage an overmatch for his; and that this can only be done by menacing him with superior forces at different points at the same time, so that we can safely attack one or both if he makes no change; and if he weakens one, to strengthen the other, forbear to attack the strengthened one, but seize and hold the weakened one, gaining so much.

*Then, in the name of God, and all these rights,
Advance your standards, draw your willing swords:
For me the ransom of my bold attempt
Shall be this cold corpse on the earth's bold face;
But if I thrive, the gain of my attempt
The least of you shall share his part thereof.*

—*Shakespeare.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

.. FEBRUARY 9

The memory of the just is blessed. Proverbs 10 : 7.

General Harrison's Birthday.

(Said while examining some court-martial cases, and writing the date February 9, 1864.)

Does your mind, Judge Holt, associate events with dates?
Every time this morning that I have had occasion to write the
day of the month, the thought has come up, This is General Har-
rison's birthday.

*Hail, memory, hail! in all thy exhaustless mine,
From age to age unnumber'd treasures shine!
Thought and her shadowy brood thy call obey,
And place and time are subject to thy sway!*

*Lull'd in the countless chambers of the brain,
Our thoughts are link'd by many a hidden chain,
Awake but one, and lo, what myriads rise!
Each stamps its image as the other flies!*

—Rogers.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 10

Riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven. Proverbs 23:5.

Dead Loss for Jehu.

(Decision rendered February 11, 1864, as to the liability of the Government to pay two or three hundred dollars in greenback notes lost by a coachman by fire at the mansion stables, February 10, 1864. Case submitted by Robert Lincoln.)

The payment of a note presupposes its presentation to the maker of it. It is the sign or symbol of value received; it is not *value* itself, that is clear. At the same time the production of the note seems a necessary warrant for the demand; and while the moral obligation is as strong without this, governments and banking institutions do not recognize any principle beyond the strictly legal. It is an established rule that the citizen cannot sue the Government; therefore, I don't see but that it is a dead loss for Jehu.

*Riches, like insects, while conceal'd they lie,
Wait but for wings, and in their season fly;
To whom can riches give repute and trust,
Content or pleasure, but the good and just?
Judges and senates have been bought for gold,
Esteem and love are never to be sold.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 11

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.
Deuteronomy 33 : 27.

An Affectionate Farewell.

(Farewell address at Springfield, Illinois, standing on the
car platform, January 11, 1861.)

MY FRIENDS: No one, not in my position, can appreciate the sadness I feel at this parting. To this people I owe all that I am. Here I have lived more than a quarter of a century; here my children were born, and here one of them lies buried. I know not how soon I shall see you again. A duty devolves upon me which is, perhaps, greater than that which has devolved upon any other man since the days of Washington. He never could have succeeded except for the aid of Divine Providence, upon which he at all times relied. I feel that I cannot succeed without the same divine aid which sustained him; and in the same Almighty-Being I place my reliance for support, and I hope you, my friends, will all pray that I may receive that divine assistance, without which I cannot succeed. Again, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

*When forced to part from those we love,
Though sure to meet to-morrow,
We yet a kind of anguish prove,
And with a touch of sorrow.
But oh! what words can paint the fears
When from those friends we sever
Perhaps to part for months—for years—
Perhaps to part forever.*

—Anonymus.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 12 (Lincoln's Birthday)

Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor.
Judges 6: 15.

My Early History.

(To Mr. J. L. Scripps.)

My early history is perfectly characterized by a single line of Gray's Elegy, "The short and simple annals of the poor."

(To Honorable J. W. Fell, in 1859.)

I was born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families, second families, perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family by the name of Hanks. . . . My father, at the death of his father, was but six years of age, and grew up literally without any education. He removed from Kentucky to what is now Spencer County, Indiana, in my eighth year. We reached our new home about the time the State came into the Union. It was a wild region, with many bears, and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up. There were some schools, so called, but no qualification was ever required of a teacher beyond "readin', writin', and cipherin' to the rule of three." If a straggler, supposed to understand Latin, happened to sojourn in the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a wizard. There was absolutely nothing to excite ambition for education. Of course when I came of age I did not know much. Still, somehow, I could read, write, and cipher to the rule of three, but that was all. I have not been in school since. The little advance I now have upon this store of education I have picked up from time to time under the pressure of necessity.

*From out the hillside hovel came
An infant's wail, which proved the key
Of songs of freedom yet to be,
To drown the groans—a nation's shame.*

—Ben D. House.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 13

I had rather speak five words with my understanding, than by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. I. Corinthians 14:19.

Coercion and Invasion.

(From speech at Indianapolis, before the Legislature, February 11, 1861.)

Solomon says there is "a time to keep silence"; and when men wrangle by the mouth with no certainty that they *mean* the same *thing*, while using the same *word*, it perhaps were as well if they would keep silence. The words "coercion" and "invasion" are much used in these days, and often with some temper and hot blood. Let us make sure, if we can, that we do not misunderstand the meaning of those who use them. Let us get the exact definition of these words, not from dictionaries, but from the men themselves, who certainly depreciate the *things* they would represent by the use of the words. What, then, is "coercion"? What is "invasion"? Would the marching of an army into South Carolina, without the consent of her people, and with hostile intent toward them, be an "invasion"? I certainly think it would; and it would be "coercion" also if the South Carolinians were forced to submit.

*'T is only man can create,
And cut the air to sounds articulate
By nature's special charter. Nay, speech can
Make a shrewd discrepance 'twixt man and man:
It doth the gentleman from clown discover:
And from a fool the grave philosopher;
As Solon said to one in judgment weak,
'I thought thee wise until I heard thee speak.'*

—James Howell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 14 (Valentine Day)

The maid was fair and beautiful. Esther 2:7.

The Beginning of Love With Me.

(To an acquaintance in Springfield, Illinois.)

Did you ever write out a story in your mind? I did when I was a little codger. One day a wagon with a lady and two girls and a man broke down near us, and while they were fixing up, they cooked in our kitchen. The woman had books and read us stories, and they were the first I ever had heard. I took a great fancy to one of the girls; and when they were gone I thought of her a great deal, and one day when I was sitting out in the sun by the house I wrote out a story in my mind. I thought I took my father's horse and followed the wagon, and finally I found it, and they were surprised to see me. I talked with the girl and persuaded her to elope with me; and that night I put her on my horse, and we started off across the prairie. After several hours we came to a camp, and when we rode up we found it was the one we had left a few hours before, and we went in. The next night we tried it again, and the same thing happened—the horse came back to the same place; and then we concluded that we ought not to elope. I stayed until I had persuaded her father to give her to me. I always meant to write that story out and publish it, and I began once; but I concluded it was not much of a story. But I think that was the beginning of love with me.

*Of't have I heard both youths and virgins say,
Birds choose their mates, and couple too, this day;
But by their flight I never can divine
When I shall couple with my Valentine.*

—He

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 15

The whole land is made desolate. Jeremiah 12:11.

Distracted Condition of the Country.

(Before the Mayor and Common Council of Pittsburg,
Pennsylvania, February 15, 1861.)

In every short address I have made to the people, in every crowd through which I have passed, of late, some allusion has been made to the distracted condition of the country. It is natural to expect that I should say something on this subject; but to touch upon it all would involve an elaborate discussion of a great many questions and circumstances, requiring more time than I can at present command, and would, perhaps, commit me upon matters that have not yet fully developed themselves. The condition of the country is an extraordinary one, and fills the mind of every patriot with anxiety. It is my intention to give this subject all the consideration I possibly can before especially deciding in regard to it, so that when I do speak, I hope I may say nothing in opposition to the spirit of the Constitution, contrary to the integrity of the Union, or which will prove inimical to the liberties of the people or to the peace of the whole country.

*When shall the deadly hate of faction cease,
When shall our long-divided land have rest,
If every peevish, moody malcontent
Shall set the senseless rabble in an uproar?
Fright them with dangers, and perplex their brains
Each day with some fantastic giddy change!*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 16

On earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2 : 14.

Cordial Good Will.

(Extract from speech at Cincinnati, Ohio, February 12, 1861.)

In a few short years I and every other individual man who is now living will pass away. I hope that our national difficulties will also pass away, and I hope we shall see in the streets of Cincinnati—good old Cincinnati—for centuries to come, once every four years, the people give such a reception as this to the constitutionally elected President of the whole United States. I hope you will all join in that reception, and that you will also welcome your brethren across the river to participate in it. We shall welcome them in every State in the Union, no matter where they are from. From away South, we shall extend to them a cordial good will, when our present differences shall have been forgotten and blown to the winds forever.

*If I unwittingly, or in my rage,
Have aught committed that is hardly borne
By any in this presence, I desire
To reconcile me to his friendly peace:
'T is death to me to be at enmity;
I hate it, and desire all good men's love.*

—S.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 17

Behold, the people shall rise up as a great line. Numbers 23:24.

When the People Rise in Mass.

(Extract from address to citizens of Indianapolis, Indiana,
February 11, 1861.)

Of the people, when they rise in mass in behalf of the Union, and the liberties of their country, truly may it be said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against them." In all trying positions in which I shall be placed, and, doubtless, I shall be placed in many such, my reliance will be placed upon you and the people of the United States; and I wish you to remember, now and forever, that it is your business, and not mine; that if the Union of these States and the liberties of this people shall be lost, it is but little to any one man of fifty-two years of age, but a great deal to the thirty millions of people who inhabit these United States, and to their posterity in all coming time.

*They need no urging to stir them on,
They yearn for us no battle cry;
At the word that their country calls for men
They throw down hammer, scythe, and pen,
And are ready to serve and die!*

—Barry.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 18

He that shall humble himself shall be exalted. Matthew 23:12.

Humblest of All the Presidents.

(Extract from speech to the Legislature at Albany, New York, February 18, 1861.)

It is true that while I hold myself, without mock modesty, the humblest of all the individuals who have ever been elected President of the United States, I yet have a more difficult task to perform than any one of them has ever yet encountered.

*How humble, yet how hopeful he could be,
How, in good fortune and in ill, the same;
Nor bitter in success, nor boastful he,
Thirsty for goal, nor feverish for fame.*

*He went about his work—such work as few
Ever laid on head and heart and hand—
As one who knows where there 's a task to do—
Man's honest will must Heaven's good grace command.*
—Tom Taylor.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 19

Let us stand together. Isaiah 50:8.

Common Cause for These Objects.

(Extract from speech at Poughkeepsie, New York, February 19, 1861.)

These receptions have been given me at other places, and as here, by men of different parties, and not by one party alone. It shows an earnest effort on the part of all to save, not the country, for the country can save itself, but to save the institutions of the country—those institutions under which, for at least three-quarters of a century, we have become the greatest, the most intelligent, and the happiest people in the world. These manifestations show that we all make common cause for these objects; that if some of them are successful in an election and others are beaten, those who are beaten are not in favor of sinking the ship in consequence of defeat, but are earnest in their purpose to sail it safely through the voyage in hand, and, insofar as they may think there has been any mistake in the election, satisfying themselves to take their chance at setting the matter right the next time. This course is entirely right.

*Our country first, their glory and their pride,
Land of their hopes, land where their fathers died,
When in the right, they 'll keep thy honor bright;
When in the wrong, they 'll die to set it right.*

—James T. Fields.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 20

The child is not; and I, whither shall I go? Genesis 37:30.

My Boy, Willie.

(Died February 20, 1862, aged twelve years.)

(To Colonel Cannon.)

Colonel, did you ever dream of a lost friend, and feel that you were holding sweet communion with that friend, and yet have a sad consciousness that it was not a reality? Just so I dream of my boy, Willie.

(To a Christian lady.)

I had lived until my boy, Willie, died, without realizing fully these things. That blow overwhelmed me. It showed me my weakness as I had never felt it before, and if I can take what you have stated as a test, I think I can safely say that I know something of that change of which you speak; and I will further add, that it has been my intention for some time, at a suitable opportunity, to make a public religious profession.

*Love is the golden chain that binds
The happy souls above;
And he's an heir of heaven that finds
His bosom glow with love.*

—Charles Swain.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 21

I understood as a child, I thought as a child. I. Corinthians 13 : 11.

The Struggle at Trenton.

(Extract of speech before the Senate at Trenton, New Jersey, February 21, 1861.)

May I be pardoned if, upon this occasion, I mention that way back in my childhood, the earliest days of my being able to read, I got hold of a small book, such a one as few of the younger members have ever seen, "Weem's Life of Washington." I remember all the accounts there given of the battlefields and the struggles for the liberties of the country, and none fixed themselves upon my imagination so deeply as the struggle here at Trenton, New Jersey. The crossing of the river, the contest with the Hessians, the great hardships endured at that time, all fixed themselves in my memory, more than any single revolutionary event; and you all know, for you have all been boys, how those early impressions last longer than any others. I recollect thinking then, boy even though I was, that there must have been something more than common that these men struggled for.

*I love to learn their story,
Who suffered for my sake,
To emulate their glory,
And follow in their wake;
Bards, patriots, martyrs, sages,
The noble of all ages,
Whose deeds crown history's pages,
And Time's great volume make.*

—Baska.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 22 (Washington's Birthday)

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. Psalms 112:6.

Washington,

(Address at Springfield, Illinois, February 22, 1842.)

This is the one hundred and tenth anniversary of the birthday of Washington. We are met to celebrate this day. Washington is the mightiest name of earth—long since mightiest in moral reformation. On that name a eulogy is expected. It cannot be. To add brightness to the sun or glory to the name of Washington it alike impossible. Let none attempt it. In solemn awe pronounce the name, and in its naked, deathless splendor leave it shining on.

*As "first in war, first in peace,"
As patriot, father, friend—
He will be blessed till time shall cease,
And earthly life shall end.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 28

I am for peace : but when I speak, they are for war. Psalms 120 : 7.

No Need of War.

(Conclusion of address on raising flag on Independence Hall, Philadelphia, February 22, 1861. See July 4.)

In my view of the present aspect of affairs, there is no need of bloodshed and war. There is no necessity for it. I am not in favor of such a course, and I may say, in advance, that there will be no bloodshed unless it is forced upon the Government. The Government will not use force unless force is used against it. My friends, this is a wholly unprepared speech. I did not expect to be called upon to say a word when I came here. I supposed I was to do something toward raising this flag. I may, therefore, have said something indiscreet; but I have said nothing but what I am willing to live by, and in the pleasure of Almighty God, to die by.

*O war, begot in pride and luxury,
The child of malice and revengeful hate;
Thou impious good, and good impiety!
Thou art the foul refiner of a state,
Unjust scourge of men's iniquity,
Sharpeaser of corruptions desperate!
Is there no means but a sin-sick land
Must be let blood with such a botsterous hand?*

—Dante.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 24

Shall not the judge of all the earth do right? Genesis 18 : 25.

Final Triumph of Right.

(To Rev. Alexander Reed, Superintendent of the United States Christian Commission, February 22, 1868.)

Whatever shall be, sincerely and in God's name, devised for the good of the soldiers and seamen in their hard sphere of duty, can scarcely fail to be blessed; and whatever shall tend to turn our thoughts from the unreasonable and uncharitable passions, prejudices, and jealousies incident to a great national trouble such as ours, and to fix them on the vast and long-enduring consequences, for weal or for woe, which are to result from the struggle, and especially to strengthen our reliance on the Supreme Being for the final triumph of the right, cannot but be well for us all. The birthday of Washington and the Christian Sabbath coinciding this year, and suggesting together the highest interests of this life and of that to come, is most propitious for the meeting proposed.

*Let us fight for the right, though the struggle be long,
With firm and unswerving desire;
Let us manfully battle oppression and wrong
With hearts that are earnest, and trusty, and strong;
With God and the truth to inspire.*

—E. T. Jeffrey.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 25

They helped every one his neighbour ; and every one said to his brother,
Be of good courage. Isalah 41 : 6.

Mutual Security.

(Letter to Governor Fletcher, of Missouri, February 20,
1865.)

It seems that there is no organized military force of the enemy in Missouri, and yet that destruction of property and life is rampant everywhere. Is not the cure for this within the reach of the people themselves? It cannot but be that every man, not naturally a robber or cutthroat, would gladly put an end to this state of things. A large majority, in every locality, must feel alike upon this subject; and if so, they only need to reach an understanding, one with another. Each leaving all others alone solves the problem; and surely each would do this, but for his apprehension that others will not leave him alone. Cannot this mischievous distrust be removed? Let neighborhood meetings be everywhere called and held, of all entertaining a sincere purpose for mutual security in the future, whatever they may heretofore have thought, said, or done about the war, or about anything else. Let all such meet, and, waiving all else, pledge each to cease harassing others, and to make common cause against whoever persists in making, aiding, or encouraging further disturbance. The practical means they will best know how to adopt and apply. At such meetings, old friendships will cross the memory, and honor and Christian charity will come in to help.

*Thus by friendship's ties united,
We will change the bloody past
Into golden links of union,
Blending all in love at last.*

—Anonymous.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 26

Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.
Romans 15 : 2.

Treat You as My Own Neighbors.

(From first speech in Washington after arriving, February 27, 1861, delivered at his hotel to the Mayor and Common Council.)

As it is the first time in my life since the present phase of politics has presented itself in this country, that I have said anything publicly within a region of country where the institution of slavery exists, I will take occasion to say that I think very much of the ill feeling that has existed, and still exists between the people in the sections from which I came and the people here, is dependent upon a misunderstanding of one another. I therefore avail myself of this opportunity to assure you, Mr. Mayor, and all the gentlemen present, that I have not now, and never have had any disposition to treat you in any respect otherwise than as my own neighbors. I have not now any purpose to withhold from you any of the benefits of the Constitution, under any circumstances, that I would not feel myself constrained to withhold from my own neighbors; and I hope, in a word, that when we shall become better acquainted—and I say it with great confidence—we shall like each other the more.

*My country, sir, is not a single spot
Of such a mould, or fix'd to such a clime;
No, 't is the social circle of my friends,
The lov'd community in which I 'm link'd,
And in whose welfare all my wishes center.*

—James Miller.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 27

We have done that which was our duty to do. Luke 17 : 10.

Stand by Our Duty.

(Extract from Cooper Institute speech, New York, February 27, 1860.)

Even though the Southern people will not so much as listen to us, let us calmly consider their demands, and yield to them, if in our deliberate view of our duty we possibly can. Judging by all they say and do, and by the subject and nature of their controversy with us, let us determine, if we can, what will satisfy them. . . . Wrong as we think slavery is, we can yet afford to let it alone where it is, because that much is due to the necessity arising from its actual presence in the nation. But can we, while our votes will prevent it, allow it to spread into the national territories, and to overrun us here in the free States? If our sense of duty forbids this, then let us stand by our duty fearlessly and effectively.

*Not in dumb resignation
We lift our hands on high;
Not like the nerveless fatalist,
Content to trust and die.
Our faith springs like the eagle,
Who soars to meet the sun,
And cries exulting unto Thee,
"O Lord, thy will be done."*

*When tyrant feet are trampling
Upon the common weal,
Thou dost not bid us bend and writhe
Beneath the iron heel.
In thy name we assert our right
By sword or tongue or pen,
And even the headsmen's ax may flash
Thy message unto men.*

*Thy will; it bids the weak be strong,
It bids the strong be just;
No lip to fawn, no hand to beg,
No brow to seek the dust.
Wherever man oppresses man
Beneath thy liberal sun,
O Lord, be there, thine arm made bare:
Thy righteous will be done. —Hon. John Hay.*



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 28

How forcible are right words! Job 6:25.

Right Makes Right.

(Extracts from Cooper Institute speech, New York, February 27, 1860. Continued from preceding page.)

Let us be diverted by none of those sophistical contrivances wherewith we are so industriously plied and belabored—contrivances such as groping for some middle ground between the right and the wrong, vain as the search for a man who should be neither a living man nor a dead man; such a policy of “don't care” on a question about which all true men do care; such as Union appeals, beseeching true Union men to yield to disunionists, reversing the divine rule, and calling not the sinners but the righteous to repentance; such as invocations to Washington imploring men to unsay what Washington said, and to undo what Washington did. Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end, do our duty as we understand it.

*The man who is strong to fight his fight,
And whose will no force can daunt,
While the truth is truth and the right is might,
Is the man that the ages want.*

*He may fall or fall in grim defeat,
But he has not fled the strife,
And the house of earth shall smell more sweet
For the perfume of his life.*

—Dunbar.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

FEBRUARY 29

Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? If it be, give me thine hand. II. Kings 10:15.

A Misunderstanding.

(From a speech in response to a serenade at Washington, February 28, 1861.)

I am here for the purpose of taking official position amongst the people, almost all of whom were politically opposed to me and are yet opposed to me, as I suppose. I propose no lengthy address to you. I only propose to say, as I did yesterday, when your worthy Mayor and Board of Aldermen called upon me, that I thought much of the ill feeling that has existed between you and the people of your surroundings, and that people from among whom I came, has depended, and now depends upon a misunderstanding. I hope that if things shall go along as prosperously as I believe we all desire they may, I have it in my power to remove some of the misunderstanding; that I may be able to convince you, and the people of your section of the country, that we regard you as in all things our equals, and in all things entitled to the same respect and the same treatment that we claim for ourselves; that we are in no wise disposed, if it were in our power to oppress you, to deprive you of any of your rights under the Constitution of the United States, or over-narrowly to split hairs with you in regard to those rights, but are determined to give you, as far as lies in our hands, all your rights under the Constitution—not grudgingly, but fully and fairly. I hope that, by thus dealing with you, we shall become better acquainted, and be better friends.

*Could we but draw back the curtains
That surround each other's lives,
See the naked heart and spirit,
Know what spur the action gives;
Often we should find it better,
Purer than we judge we should;
We should love each other better
If we only understood.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 1

Commit thy way unto the Lord ; trust also in him ; and he shall bring it to pass. Psalms 37 : 5.

The Renewed Trust.

(Formal acceptance of reelection as reported by Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, to the House of Representatives, March 1, 1865.)

Having served four years in the depths of a great and yet unended national peril, I can view this call to a second term in no wise no more flattering to myself than as an expression of the public judgment that I may better finish a difficult work, in which I have labored from the first, than could any one less severely schooled to the task. In this view, and with assured reliance on that Almighty Ruler who has so graciously sustained us thus far, and with increased gratitude to the generous people for their continued confidence, I accept the renewed trust with its yet onerous and perplexing duties and responsibilities.

*Since God doth will that some shall dwell at ease,
And others shall know hardness ; this is sure,
The lot that fits each nature he foresees ;
And wherefore murmur when we must endure ?
Some day his loving wisdom will be plain
As the sweet sunshine following after rain.*

—Mary Bradley.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 2

Think not that I am come to destroy the law: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. Matt. 5:17.

Southern Apprehension.

(From the first Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861.)

Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that by the accession of a Republican administration their property and their peace and personal security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed, and been open to inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches when I declare that "I have no disposition, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution in the States where it exists." I believe I have no lawful right to do so; and I have no inclination to do so. Those who nominated and elected me did so with the full knowledge that I had made this, and many similar declarations, and had never recanted them.

*The flying rumours gathered as they roll'd,
Scarce any tale was sooner heard than told,
And all who told it added something new,
And all who heard it made enlargement, too,
In every ear it spread, on every tongue it grew.*

—Pope.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 3

Ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God. Hebrews 5:12.

The Union Older Than the Constitution.

(From the first Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861. Continued from preceding page.)

The Union is much older than the Constitution. It was formed, in fact, by the Articles of Association in 1774. It was matured and continued in the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It was further matured, and the faith of all the then thirteen States expressly plighted and engaged that it should be perpetual, by the articles of Confederation in 1778, and finally, in 1787, one of the declared objects for ordaining and establishing the constitution was to form a more perfect Union. But if the destruction of the Union by one or by a part only of the States be lawfully possible, the Union is less than before, the Constitution having lost the vital element of perpetuity. It follows from these views that no State, upon its own mere notion, can lawfully get out of the Union; that resolves and ordinances to that effect are legally void; and that acts of violence within any State or States against the authority of the United States, are insurrectionary or revolutionary, according to circumstances.

*Who would sever freedom's shrine?
Who would draw the insidious line?
Though, by birth, one spot be mine,
Dear is all the rest:
Dear to me the South's fair land,
Dear the central mountain band,
Dear to New England's rocky strand,
Dear the prairied West.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 4 (Inauguration Day)

This people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart. Jeremiah 5 : 23.

Secession the Essence of Anarchy.

(From the first Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861. Continued from preceding page.)

If the minority will not acquiesce, the majority must, or the Government must cease. There is no alternative for continuing the Government but acquiescence on the one side or the other. If a minority in such a case will secede rather than acquiesce, they will make a precedent which, in turn, will ruin and divide them, for a minority of their own will secede from them whenever a majority refuses to be controlled by such a minority. For instance, why not any portion of a new Confederacy, a year or two hence, arbitrarily secede again, precisely as portions of the present Union now claim to secede from it? All who cherish disunion sentiments are now being educated to the exact temper of doing this. Is there such perfect identity of interests among the States to compose a new Union as to produce harmony only, and prevent renewed secession? Plainly, the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy.

*Rebellion! foul dishonoring word,
Whose wrongful blight so often has stained
The holiest cause that tongue or sword
Of mortal ever lost or gained.*

—Moore.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 5

He took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said we will do, and be obedient. Exodus 24:7.

Authority from the People.

(From the first Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861. Continued from preceding page.)

The Chief Magistrate derives all his authority from the people, and they have conferred none upon him to fix the terms for the separation of the States. The people themselves, also, can do this if they choose, but the Executive, as such, has nothing to do with it. His duty is to administer the present government as it came into his hands, and to transmit it unimpaired by him to his successor. Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world? . . . If the Almighty Ruler of nations, with his eternal truth and justice, be on your side of the North, or yours of the South, that truth and that justice will surely prevail by the judgment of this great tribunal, the American people.

*A government, on freedom's basis built,
Has, in all ages, been the theme of song,
And the desire of great godlike men,
For this the Grecian patriots fought;—for this
The noblest Roman died. Shall I go on?
Name Tell, and Hampden, and our Washington.*

—Mrs. Hale.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 6

See, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein. But they said, We will not walk therein. Jeremiah 6:16.

The Old Constitution Unimpaired.

(From the first Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861. Continued from preceding page.)

My countrymen, one and all, think calmly and well upon this whole subject. Nothing valuable can be lost by taking time. If there be an object to hurry any of you, in hot haste, to a step which you would never take deliberately, that object will be frustrated by taking time; but no good cause can be frustrated by it. Such of you as are now dissatisfied still have the old Constitution unimpaired, and on the sensitive point, the laws of your own framing under it; while the new administration will have no immediate power to change either. If it were admitted you who are dissatisfied hold the right side in the dispute, there is still not a single reason for precipitate action. Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust, in the best way, all our present difficulties.

*Thou too sail on, O Ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!*

—Longfellow.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 7

If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now are they hid from thine eyes. Luke 19: 42.

My Dissatisfied Fellow-Countrymen.

(Conclusion of first Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861.
Continued from preceding page.)

In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government; while I shall have the most solemn one to "preserve, protect, and defend" it. I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic cords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

*How earnestly did I desire to draw thee
To hope, to safety, and abiding peace;
And now, what dismal portents overawe thee,
Whose tokens drear continue to increase;
Destruction, a gaunt specter, hovers o'er thee,
And waves his bony hand with menace dread,
Or stands with aspect threaten'ng before thee,
Or writes dark omens on the clouds o'erhead.*
—J. W. Slagenhaupt.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 8

And this is the confidence we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. I. John 5:14.

Prayers of Both Could Not be Answered.

(From the second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865.)

Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated the cause of the conflict might cease with, or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God; and each invokes his aid against the other. It may seem strange that any man should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has his own purposes. "Woe to the world because of offenses! for it must need be that offense come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh." If we shall suppose American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through his appointed time, he now wills to remove, and that he gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to him?

*O sad estate
Of human wretchedness! so weak is man,
No ignorant and blind, that did not God
Sometimes withhold in mercy what we ask,
We should be ruined at our own request.*

—Hannah More.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 9

Above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.
Colossians 3:14.

Malice Towards None, Charity for All.

(From the second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865.
Continued from preceding page.)

Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled up by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

*In faith and hope the world will disagree,
But all mankind's concern is charity:
All must be false that thwart this one great end
And all of God, that bless mankind, or mend.*

—Pope.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 10

Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to words of knowledge. Proverbs 23 : 12.

General Education.

(From a circular announcing his candidacy for the Legislature, in March, 1832, when only twenty-three years old.)

That every man may receive at least a moderate education, and thereby be enabled to read the histories of his own and other countries, by which he may duly appreciate the value of our free institutions, appears to be an object of vital importance; even on this account alone, to say nothing of the advantages and satisfaction to be derived from all being able to read the Scriptures and other works, both of religious and moral nature, for themselves. For my part, I desire to see the time when education, by its means, morality, sobriety, enterprise and integrity, shall become much more general than at present, and should be gratified to have it in my power to contribute something to the advancement of any measure which might have a tendency to accelerate the happy period.

*Through knowledge we behold the world's creation,
How in his cradle first he fostered was,
And judge of nature's cunning operation,
How things she formed of a formless mass:
By knowledge we do learn ourselves to know;
And what to man and what to God we owe.*

—Spencer.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 11

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches. Proverbs 22 : 1.

Ambition.

(From a circular printed in March, 1832, announcing himself a candidate for the Legislature, when he was twenty-three years old. Continued from preceding page.)

Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition. Whether it be true or not, I can say for one that I have no other so great as that of being truly esteemed of my fellow-men by rendering myself worthy of their esteem. How far I shall succeed in gratifying this ambition is yet to be developed. I am young, and unknown to most of you. I was born, and have ever remained in the most humble walks of life. I have no wealthy or popular relatives or friends to recommend me. My case is thrown exclusively upon the independent voters of the country; and if elected they will have conferred a favor upon me for which I shall be unremitting in my labors to compensate. But if the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background, I have been too familiar with disappointments to be very much chagrined.

*So he went forth to battle on the side
That he felt clear was Liberty's and Right's;
As in his pleasant boyhood he had plied
His warfare with rude Nature's thwarting might.*

—Tom Taylor.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 12

The labourer is worthy of his reward. I. Timothy 5: 18.

General Grant.

(U. S. Grant, commissioned Lieutenant-General at his first meeting with Lincoln, March 9, 1864.)

General Grant, the nation's appreciation of what you have done, and its reliance upon you for what remains to be done in the existing struggle, are now presented with this commission, constituting you lieutenant-general in the army of the United States. With this high honor devolves upon you a corresponding responsibility. As the country trusts in you, so, under God, it will sustain you. I scarcely need add that with what I here speak for the nation goes my own hearty personal concurrence.

*But there are deeds which should not pass away,
And names that must not wither, though the earth
Forgets her empires with a just decay.
The enslavers and the enslaved, their death and birth;
The high, the mountain majesty of worth
Should be, and shall, survivor of its woe,
And from its immortality look forth
In the sun's face, like yonder Alpine snow,
Imperishably pure beyond all things below.*

—Byron.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 13

To undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke. Isaiah 58:6.

The Jewel of Liberty in the Family of Freedom.

(Letter to Governor Hahn, of Louisiana, March 13, 1864.)

I congratulate you on having fixed your name in history as the first Free-State Governor of Louisiana. Now, you are about to have a convention, which, among other things, will probably define the elective franchise. I barely suggest, for your private consideration, whether some of the colored people may not be let in, as, for instance, the very intelligent, and especially those who have fought gallantly in our ranks. They would probably help, in some trying time, to keep the jewel of liberty in the family of freedom.

*When will the world shake off such yokes, oh, when
Will that redeeming day shine out on men,
That shall behold them rise, erect and free
As heaven and nature meant mankind should be?*

—Thomas Moore.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 14

Understandest thou what thou readeſt? Acts 8:30.

Shakespeare.

(To Mr. McDonough, an actor, who called at the White House, accompanied by W. D. Kelley.)

I am very glad to meet you, Mr. McDonough, and I am grateful to Kelley for bringing you in so early, for I want you to tell me something about Shakespeare's plays as they are constructed for the stage. You can imagine that I do not get much time to study such matters, but I recently had a couple of talks with Hackett—Baron Hackett, as they call him—who is famous as Jack Falstaff, from whom I elicited few satisfactory replies, though I probed him with a good many questions. . . . Hackett's lack of information impressed me with a doubt as to whether he had ever studied Shakespeare's text.

(To a chaplain who was present.)

From your calling it is probable that you do not know that the acting plays which people crowd to hear are not always those planned by their reputed authors. Thus, take the stage edition of Richard III. It opens with a passage from Henry VI., after which comes portions of Richard III., then another scene from Henry VI., and the finest soliloquy in the play, if we may judge from the many quotations it furnishes, and the frequency with which it is heard in amateur exhibitions, was never seen by Shakespeare, but was written—was it not, Mr. McDonough?—after his death, by Colley Cibber.

*When Learning's triumph o'er her barbarous foes
First reared the stage, immortal Shakespeare rose,
Each change of many-colored life he drew;
Exhausted worlds, and then imagin'd new
Existence—saw him spurn her bounded reign;
And panting Time—toil'd after him in vain.*

—Dr. Johnson.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 15

Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? Galatians 4:16.

The Truth Needs to be Told.

(Letter to Thurlow Weed, March 15, 1865.)

Every one likes a compliment. Thank you for yours on my little notification speech, and on the recent inaugural address. I expect the latter to wear as well as, perhaps better than anything I have produced; but I believe it is not immediately popular. Men are not flattered by being shown that there has been a difference of purpose between the Almighty and them. To deny it, however, in this case, is to deny that there is a God governing the world. It is a truth which I thought needed to be told, and, as whatever of humiliation there is in it falls most directly on myself, I thought others might afford to let me tell it.

*They are slaves who fear to speak
For the fallen and the weak;
They are slaves who will not choose
Hatred, scoffing, and abuse,
Rather than in silence shrink
From the truth they needs must think;
They are slaves who dare not be
In the right with two or three.*

—Lowell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 16

This woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.
Acts. 9 : 36.

Compliment to Woman.

(Extract from a speech at a Ladies' Fair for the benefit of
the soldiers, Washington, March 16, 1864.)

In this extraordinary war extraordinary developments have manifested themselves such as have not been seen in former wars; and among these manifestations nothing has been more remarkable than these fairs for the relief of suffering soldiers and their families, and the chief agents in these fairs are the women of America. I am not accustomed to the use of the language of eulogy; I have never studied the art of paying compliments to women; but I must say that if all that has been said by orators and poets since the creation of the world in praise of women were applied to the women of America, it would not do them justice for their conduct during the war. I will close by saying, God bless the women of America.

*Woman! blest partner of our joys and woes!
Even in the darkest hours of earthly ill
Untarnish'd yet thy fond affection glows,
Throbs with each pulse, and beats with every thrill!*

—Sands.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 17

Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the Lord. I. Samuel 30 : 26.

Captured flag.

(Extract from a speech at National Hotel, Washington, March 17, 1865, on presenting to Governor Morton, of Indiana, a Confederate flag captured by Indiana troops.)

It will be but a very few words that I shall undertake to say. I was born in Kentucky, raised in Indiana, and live in Illinois, and I am now here, where it is my business to be, to care equally for the good people of all the States. I am glad to see an Indiana regiment on this day able to present this captured flag to the Governor of Indiana. I am not disposed, in saying this, to make a distinction between the States, for all have done equally well.

*There are flags in many lands,
There are flags of every hue;
But there is no flag, however grand,
Like our own Red, White, and Blue.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 18

What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? II. Corinthians 6:14.

Eternal Antagonism.

(Extract from speech at Peoria, Illinois, 1854.)

Slavery is founded in the selfishness of man's nature—opposition to it in his love of justice. These principles are an eternal antagonism, and when brought into collision so fiercely as extension brings them, shocks and throes and convulsions must ceaselessly follow. Repeal the Missouri Compromise, repeal all compromises, repeal the Declaration of Independence, repeal all past history, you still cannot repeal human nature. It still will be the abundance of man's heart that slavery is wrong, and out of the abundance of his heart his mouth will continue to speak.

*Careless seems the great Avenger; history's pages but record
One death-grapple in the darkness 'twixt old systems and the Word;
Truth forever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the throne—
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own.*

—Lowell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 19

Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? Joshua 5:13.

A People's Contest.

(Extract from first message to Congress, July 4, 1861.)

Our adversaries have adopted some declaration of independence, in which, unlike the good old one penned by Jefferson, they omit the words, "All men are created equal." Why? They have adopted a temporary national constitution, in the preamble of which, unlike our good old one signed by Washington, they omit, "We, the people," and substitute, "We, the deputies of the sovereign and Independent States." Why? Why this deliberate pressing out of view the rights of men and the authority of the people? This is essentially a people's contest. On the side of the Union it is a struggle for maintaining in the world that form of government whose leading object is to elevate the condition of men, to lift artificial weights from all shoulders, to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all, to afford an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life.

*O liberty! heaven's choice prerogative!
True bond of law! thou social soul of property!
Thou breath of reason! life of life itself!
For the valiant bleed. O sacred liberty!*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 29

He multiplieth words without knowledge. Job 35:16.

King Richard the Third.

(To Mr. F. B. Carpenter, at White House, March 2, 1864.)

The opening of the play of King Richard the Third seems to me often entirely misapprehended. It is quite common for an actor to come upon the stage, and, in a sophomoric style, to begin with a flourish:

“Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York,
And all the clouds that lowered upon our house,
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.”

Now, this is all wrong. Richard, you remember, had been, and was then, plotting the destruction of his brothers, to make room for himself. Outwardly the most loyal to the newly crowned king, secretly he could scarcely contain his impatience at the obstacles still in the way of his own elevation. He appears on the stage, just after the crowning of Edward, burning with repressed hate and jealousy. The prologue is the utterance of the most intense bitterness and satire.

*Words learn'd by rote a parrot may rehearse,
But talking is not always to converse;
Not more distant from harmony divine,
The constant creaking of a country sign.*

—Cowper.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 21

Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end. Proverbs 19:20.

A Small Retainer.

(Notes from a law lecture, 1850.)

As a general rule, never take your whole fee in advance, nor any more than a small retainer. When fully paid beforehand, you are more than a common mortal if you can feel the same interest in the case as if something was still in prospect for you as well as for your client.

*All are architects of fate,
Working in these walls of time,
Some with massive deeds and great,
Some with ornaments of rhyme.*

*Nothing useless is, or low;
Each thing in its place is best;
And what seems but idle show
Strengthens and supports the rest.*

*For the structure that we raise,
Time is with materials filled;
Our to-days and yesterdays
Are the blocks with which we build.*

*Truly shape and fashion these;
Leave no yawning gaps between;
Think not, because no man sees,
Such things will remain unseen.*

—Longfellow.

MARCH 22

Apollo, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. Acts 18:24.

Extemporaneous Speaking.

(Notes from a law lecture, 1850.)

Extemporaneous speaking should be practiced and cultivated. It is the lawyer's avenue to the public. However able and faithful he may be in other respects, people are slow to bring him business if he cannot make a speech. And yet there is not a more fatal error to young lawyers than relying too much on speech-making. If any one, upon his rare powers of speaking, shall claim exemption from the drudgery of the law, his case is a failure in advance.

*No haughty gesture marks his gait,
No pompous tone his word,
No studied attitude is seen,
No palling nonsense heard;
He'll suit his bearing to the hour—
Laugh, listen, learn, or teach,
With joyous freedom in his mirth,
And candor in his speech.*

—Eliza Cook.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 23

Blessed are the peacemakers. Matthew 5:9.

Discourage Litigation.

(Notes from a law lecture, 1850.)

Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser—in fees, expenses, and waste of time. As a peace-maker, the lawyer has a superiority of being a good man. There will still be business enough. Never stir up litigation. A worse man can hardly be found than one who does this. Who can be more nearly a fiend than he who habitually overhauls the registry of deeds in search of defects in titles, whereon to stir up strife and put money in his pocket? A moral tone ought to be infused into the profession which would drive such men out of it.

*Learn to dissemble wrongs, to smile at injuries,
And suffer crimes that thou want'st the power to punish:
Be easy, affable, familiar, friendly;
Search, and know all mankind's mysterious ways,
But trust the secret of thy soul to none:
This is the way,
This only, to be safe in such a world as this is.*

—Rowe.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 24

Bring Zenas the lawyer. Titus 3:13.

Vague Popular Belief.

(Notes from a law lecture, 1850.)

There is a vague popular belief that the lawyers are necessarily dishonest. I say vague, because when we consider to what extent confidence and honors are reposed in and conferred upon lawyers by the people, it appears improbable that their impression of dishonesty is very distinct and vivid. Yet the impression is common—almost universal. Let no young man choosing the law for a calling for a moment yield to the popular belief. Resolve to be honest at all events; and if, in your own judgment, you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer. Choose some other occupation rather than one in the choosing of which you do, in advance, consent to be a knave.

*An honest man is still an unmov'd rock.
Wash'd whiter, but not shaken with the shock:
Whose heart conceives no sinister device;
Fearless he plays with flames, but treads on ice.*
—Davenport.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 25

We all do fade as a leaf. Isaiah 64 : 6.

The Last Leaf.

(To F. B. Carpenter, March 25, 1864.)

There are some quaint, queer verses written, I think, by Oliver Wendell Holmes, entitled "The Last Leaf," one of which is to me inexpressibly touching:

"The mossy marbles rest
On the lips that he has pressed
In their bloom;
And the names he loved to hear
Have been carved for many a year
On the tomb."

For pure pathos, in my judgment, there is nothing finer than those six lines in the English language!

*They are falling, sadly falling,
Close beside our cottage door,
Pale and faded, like the loved ones
That have gone forevermore.
They are falling, and the sunbeams
Shine in beauty soft around;
Yet the faded leaves are falling,
Falling on the grassy mound.*

J. H. Kurzenknabe.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 28

The hand of the diligent maketh rich. Proverbs 10:4.

The True System.

(From a speech at New Haven, Connecticut, March 6, 1860.)

I don't believe in a law to prevent a man from getting rich; it would do more harm than good. So while we do not propose any war upon capital, we do wish to allow the humblest man an equal chance to get rich with everybody else. When one starts poor, as most do in the race of life, free society is such that when he knows he can better his condition, he knows that there is no fixed condition of labor for his whole life. I am not ashamed to confess that twenty-five years ago I was a hired laborer, mauling rails, at work on a flat-boat—just what might happen to any poor man's son. I want every man to have the chance—and I believe a black man is entitled to it—in which he can better his condition; when he may look forward and hope to be a hired laborer this year, and then next work for himself afterward, and finally to hire men to work for him. That is the true system.

*The uncleared forest, the unbroken soil,
The iron bark that turns the lumberer's ax;
The rapid that o'erbears the boatman's toil,
The prairies hiding the mazed wanderer's tracks:
The ambushed Indian and the prowling bear,
Such were the deeds that helped his youth to train—
Rough culture; but such trees large fruit may bear,
If but their stalks be of right girth and grain.*

—Tom Taylor.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 27

The wicked plotteth against the just. Psalms 37:12.

Getting Used to Things.

(To F. B. Carpenter, in 1864, who informed him of the publication of an alleged conspiracy to abduct or assassinate the President.)

Well, even if true, I do not see what the Rebels would gain by killing or getting in possession of me. I am but a single individual, and it would not help their cause or make the least difference in the progress of the war. Everything would go right on just the same. Soon after I was nominated at Chicago, I began to receive letters threatening my life. The first one or two made me a little uncomfortable, but I came at length to look for a regular installment of this kind of correspondence in every week's mail, and up to inauguration day I was in constant receipt of such letters. It is no uncommon thing to receive them now; but they have ceased to give me any apprehension. There is nothing like getting *used* to things.

*O slow to smite and swift to spare,
Gentle and merciful and just!
Who, in the fear of God, didst bear
The sword of power—a nation's trust!*

*Pure was thy life; its bloody close
Has placed thee with the sons of light,
Among the noble host of those
Who perished in the cause of Right.*

—Bryant.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 28

Owe no man any thing. Romans 13 : 8.

Entitled to the Property.

(Often told to his friends.)

In the days when I used to be "on the circuit," I was once accosted in the cars by a stranger, who said, "Excuse me, sir, but I have an article in my possession which belongs to you." "How is that?" I asked, considerably astonished. The stranger took a jack-knife from his pocket. "This knife," said he, "was placed in my hands some years ago, with the injunction that I was to keep it until I found a man *uglier* than myself. I have carried it from that time to this. Allow me *now* to say, sir, that I think *you* are fairly entitled to the property."

*O furrowed face, beloved by all the nation!
O tall, giant form, to memory fondly dear!
O firm, bold hand, our strength and our salvation!
O heart that knew no fear.*

—Eugene J. Hall.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 29

Woe unto him that giveth to his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken. Habakkuk 2 : 15.

The State Against Mr. Whisky.

(In defense of fifteen women of Clinton, Illinois, indicted for saloon smashing, in 1839.)

May it please the court, I will say a few words in behalf of the women who are arraigned before your honor and the jury. I would suggest, first, that there be a change in the indictment, so as to have it read, "The State against Mr. Whisky," instead of "The State against the Women." It would be far more appropriate. Touching this question, there are three laws: First, the law of self-protection; second, the law of the statute; third, the law of God. The law of self-protection is the law of necessity, as shown when our fathers threw the tea into the Boston harbor, and in asserting their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This is the defense of these women. The man who has persisted in selling whisky has had no regard for their well-being or the welfare of their husbands and sons. He has had no fear of God or regard for man; neither has he had any regard for the laws of the statute. No jury can fix any damages or punishment for any violation of the moral law. The course pursued by this liquor-dealer has been for the demoralization of society. His groggery has been a nuisance. These women, finding all moral suasion of no avail with this fellow, oblivious to all tender appeal, alike regardless of their prayers and tears, in order to protect their households and promote the welfare of the community, united to suppress the nuisance. The good of society demands its suppression. They accomplished what otherwise could not have been done."

*They talk about a woman's sphere
As though it had a limit;
There 's not a place in earth or heaven,
There 's not a task to mankind given,
There 's not a blessing or a woe,
There 's not a whisper, yea or no,
There 's not a life, or death, or birth
That has a feather's weight of worth,
Without a woman in it.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 30

Do that which is honest. II. Corinthians 13:7.

But One Way.

(Related to a friend, concerning the treachery of his partner in 1834, throwing a heavy debt on him, which, in years afterward, he paid.)

The debt was the greatest obstacle I have ever met in life. I had no way of speculating, and could not earn money except by labor; and to earn by labor eleven hundred dollars, besides my living, seemed the work of a lifetime. There was, however, but one way. I went to the creditors, and told them that if they would let me alone I would give them all I could earn over my living, as fast as I could earn it.

*The proudest motto for the young,
Write it in lines of gold
Upon my heart, and in thy mind
The stirring words enfold;
And in misfortune's dreary hour,
Or fortune's prosperous gale,
'T will have a holy, cheering power:
"There's no such word as 'fail'!"*
—Mrs. Neal.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MARCH 31

Let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Psalms 66:7.

Ballots the Successors of Bullets.

(Extract from first message to Congress, July 4, 1861.)

Our popular government has often been called an experiment. Two points in it our people have already settled—the successful *establishing*, and the successful *administering* of it. One still remains—its successful *maintenance* against a formidable internal attempt to overthrow it. It is now for them to demonstrate to the world that those who can fairly carry an election can also suppress a rebellion; that ballots are the rightful and peaceful successors of bullets; and that when ballots have fairly and constitutionally decided, there can be no successful appeal back to bullets; that there can be no successful appeal except to ballots themselves at succeeding elections. Such will be a great lesson of peace, teaching men that what they cannot take by an election, neither can they take by a war; teaching all the folly of being the beginners of war.

*To fight,
In a just cause, and for our country's glory,
Is the best office of the best of men;
And to decline when these motives urge,
Is infamy beneath a coward's baseness.*

—Harvard.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 1 (All Fools' Day)

The foolishness of fools is folly. Proverbs 14:24.

Fool the People.

(Said to have been related upon different occasions.)

It is true that you can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time; but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time.

I should be the most presumptuous blockhead upon this fool-stool, if I for one day thought that I could discharge the duties which have come upon me since I came into this place, without the aid and enlightenment of one who is stronger and wiser than all others.

*Nothing exceeds in ridicule, no doubt,
A fool IN fashion, but a fool that 's OUT;
His passion for absurdity 's so strong,
He cannot bear a rival in the wrong
Though wrong the mode, comply: the more sense is shown
In wearing other's follies than our own.*

—Young.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 2

Whatever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.
Matthew 7:12.

Bond of Human Sympathy.

(To New York Workmen's Association, April, 1864.)

The strongest bond of human sympathy outside of the family relation should be one uniting all working people of all nations, tongues, and kindreds, nor should this lead to a war on property or owners of property. Property is the fruit of labor. Property is desirable—is a positive good in the world. That some should be rich shows that others may become rich, and hence is just encouragement to industry and enterprise. Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another, but let him labor diligently and build one for himself, thus by example assuring himself that his own shall be safe from violence when built.

*Let us dare to be noble men, nature's own pride,
And dare to be true to each other,
For the earth is a homestead so fruitful and wide,
We can live, we can love, we can toil side by side,
And each unto all be a brother.*

—E. T. Jeffrey.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 3

See thou do it not: . . . worship God. Revelation 22:9.

Bow to God Only.

(Said to some colored people who knelt at his feet and thanked him for their freedom at Richmond, Virginia, April 4, 1865, the day after the evacuation of the city.)

Don't kneel to me—that is not right. You must kneel to God only, and thank him for the liberty you will hereafter enjoy. I am but God's humble instrument; but you may rest assured that as long as I live no one shall put a shackle on your limbs, and you shall have all the rights which God has given to any other free citizen of this republic.

*O Holy Father!—just and true
Are all thy works and words and ways,
And unto thee alone are due
Thanksgiving and eternal praise!
As children of thy gracious care,
We veil the eye—we bend the knee,
With broken words of praise and prayer,
Father and God, we come to thee.*

—Whittier.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 4

The Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve. *Isalah 14:3.*

Liberty is Your Birthright.

(Said to colored people as they gathered about him on the streets of Richmond, Virginia, April 4, 1865.)

My poor friends, you are free—free as air. You can cast off the name of slave and trample upon it; it will come to you no more. Liberty is your birthright. God gave it to you as he gave it to others, and it is a sin that you have been deprived of it for so many years. But you must try to deserve this priceless boon. Let the world see that you merit it, and are able to maintain it by your good works. Don't let your joy carry you into excesses; learn the laws, and obey them. Obey God's commandments, and thank him for giving you liberty, for to him you owe all things. There, now, let me pass on; I have but little time to spare. I want to see the Capitol, and must return at once to Washington to secure to you that liberty which you seem to prize so highly.

*But stars that once conceived the glowing thought
Of freedom, in that hope itself possess
All that the contest calls for—spirit, strength,
The scorn of danger, united hearts,
The surcest presage of the good they seek.*

—Copper.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 5

Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together. Nehemiah 6:7.

Reconstruction.

(Extract from last public speech, Washington, April 11, 1865.)

By these recent successes, the re-inauguration of the national authority, reconstruction, which has had a large share of thought from the first, is pressed much more closely upon our attention. It is fraught with great difficulty. Unlike a case of war between independent nations, there is no authorized organ for us to treat with. No one man has authority to give up the rebellion for any other man. We simply must begin and mold from disorganized and discordant elements. Nor is it a small additional embarrassment that we, the loyal people, differ among ourselves as to the mode, manner, and means of reconstruction.

*O make thou us, through centuries long,
In peace secure, in justice strong;
Around our gift of freedom draw
The safeguards of thy righteous law,
And, cast in some diviner mold,
Let the new cycle shame the old.*

—Whittier.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 6

A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.
Proverbs 24 · 5.

Thomas Jefferson.

(From a letter written April 6, 1859, in answer to a note from Springfield, Illinois, inviting him to a festival in honor of Thomas Jefferson's birthday, April 13.)

All honor to Jefferson; to a man who, in the concrete pressure of a struggle for national independence by a single people, had the coolness, forecast, and capacity to introduce into a merely revolutionary document an abstract truth, applicable to all men and all times, and so to embalm it there that to-day and in all coming days it shall be a rebuke and stumbling-block to the harbingers of reappearing tyranny and oppression.

*Great truths are portions of the soul of man;
Great souls are portions of eternity;
Each drop of blood that e'er through true heart ran
With lofty message, ran for thee and me;
For God's law, since the starry song began,
Hath been, and still forevermore must be,
That every deed which shall outlast life's span,
Must goad the soul to be erect and free.*

—J. R. Lowell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 7

A man that hath friends must show himself friendly. Proverbs 18 : 24.

No Friends, No Pleasure.

(Extract from a letter written in 1842 to the groom of a newly married couple.)

I regret to learn that you have resolved not to return to Illinois. I shall be very lonesome without you. How miserably things seem to be arranged in this world! If we have no friends we have no pleasure; and if we have them, we are sure to lose them, and be doubly pained by the loss. I did hope she and you would make your home here, yet I own I have no right to insist. You owe obligations to her ten thousand times more sacred than any you can owe others, and in that light let them be respected and observed. It is natural that she should desire to remain with her relations and friends. As to friends, she could not need them anywhere—she would have them in abundance here.

5 *Oh, friendship! thou balm and sweet'ner of life!
Kind parent of ease, and composer of strife!
Without thee, alas! what are riches and power
But empty delusions, the joy of an hour?*

—Mrs. Margaret Smith.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 8

Thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument. Ezekiel 33:32.

Dixie.

(Remarks in response to an immense multitude gathered before the White House, April 10, 1865.)

I am very greatly rejoiced that an occasion has occurred so pleasurable that the people can't restrain themselves. I suppose that arrangements are being made for some sort of formal demonstration, perhaps this evening or to-morrow night. If there should be such a demonstration I, of course, shall have to respond to it, and I shall have nothing to say if I dribble it out before. I see you have a band. I propose now closing up by requesting you to play a certain air, or tune. I have always thought "Dixie" one of the best tunes I ever heard. I have heard that our adversaries over the way have attempted to appropriate it as a national air. I insisted yesterday that we had fairly captured it. I presented the question to the Attorney General, and he gave his opinion that it is our lawful prize. I ask the band to give us a good turn upon it.

*Then I wish I was in Dixie! Hooray! Hooray!
In Dixie's Land I'll take my stand,
To live and die in Dixie.
Away, away, away down South in Dixie.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 9

Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. Exodus 15: 21.

Glorious News.

(To a large crowd assembled in front of the Executive Mansion late in afternoon, April 10, 1865.)

I am informed that you have assembled here this afternoon under the impression that I had made an appointment to speak at this time. This is a mistake. I have made no such an appointment. More or less persons have been gathered here at different times during the day, and in the exuberance of their feeling, and for all of which they are greatly justified, calling upon me to say something, and I have, from time to time, been sending out what I suppose was proper to disperse them for the present. I said to a larger audience this morning what I desire now to repeat. It is this: That I supposed, in consequence of the glorious news we have been receiving lately, there is to be some general demonstration, either on this or to-morrow evening when I shall be expected, I presume, to say something.

*Loud and long
Lift the old exulting song;
Sing with Miriam by the sea:
He has cast the mighty down,
Horse and rider sink and drown—
He has triumphed gloriously.*

—Whittier.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 10

By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. Matthew 12:37.

Everything I Say Goes Into Print.

(In response to a large crowd in front of the White House on the evening of April 10, 1865. Continued from preceding page.)

Just here I will remark that I would much prefer having this demonstration take place to-morrow evening, as I would then be much better prepared to say what I have to say than I am now or can be this evening. I therefore say to you that I shall be quite willing, and I hope ready, to say something then; whereas, just now, I am not ready to say something that one in my position ought to say. Everything I say, you know, goes into print. If I make a mistake it doesn't merely affect me, or you, but the country. I, therefore, ought at least try not to make mistakes. If, then, a general demonstration be made to-morrow evening, and it is agreeable, I will endeavor to say something, and not make a mistake, without at least trying carefully to avoid it. Thanking you for the compliment of this call, I bid you good evening.

*Words are the soul's ambassadors, who go
Abroad upon her errands to and fro;
They are the sole expounders of the mind
And correspondence keep 'twixt all mankind.*

—*Stillingfleet.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 11

I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. Leviticus 26:6.

Righteous and Speedy Peace.

(Extract from last public speech, Washington, April 11, 1865.)

We meet this evening not in sorrow, but in gladness of heart. The evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond, and the surrender of the principal insurgent army, give hope of a righteous and speedy peace, whose joyous expression cannot be restrained. In the midst of this, however, He from whom all blessings flow must not be forgotten. A call for a national thanksgiving is being prepared, and will be duly promulgated. Nor must those whose harder part gives us the cause of rejoicing be overlooked. Their honors must not be parceled out with others. I myself was near the front, and had the high pleasure of transmitting much of the good news to you; but no part of the honor, for plan or execution, is mine. To General Grant, his skillful officers and brave men, all belongs. The gallant navy stood ready, but was not in reach to take active part.

*Brave minds, howe'er at war, are secret friends,
Their generous discord with the battle ends;
In peace they wonder whence dissension rose,
And ask how souls so like could e'er be foes.*

—Tickell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 12

He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good. Proverbs 16:20.

In the Union or Out of It.

(Extract from last public speech, Washington, April 11, 1865.)

We all agree that the seceded States, so-called, are out of their proper, practical relation with the Union, and that the sole object of the Government, civil and military, in regard to those States, is to again get them into that proper, practical relation. I believe it is not only possible, but in fact easier to do this without deciding, or even considering, whether these States have ever been out of the Union, than with it. Finding themselves safely at home, it would be utterly immaterial whether they had ever been abroad. Let us all join in doing the acts necessary to restoring the proper, practical relations between these States and the Union, and each forever after innocently indulge his own opinion whether in doing the acts he brought the States from without into the Union, or only gave them proper assistance, they never having been out of it.

*No more shall the war-cry sever,
Or the winding rivers be red;
They banish our anger forever
When they laurel the graves of our dead!
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day;
Love and tears for the Blue,
Tears and love for the Gray.*

—F. M. Finch.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 13

The time of my departure is at hand. II. Timothy 4:6.

A Presentiment.

(To a newspaper correspondent.)

I feel a presentiment that I shall not outlast the Rebellion.

(To Harriet Beecher Stowe.)

Whichever way it ends, I have the impression that I shall not last long after it is over.

(To his wife one day in April, 1865, when driving by a country cemetery.)

Mary, you are younger than I. You will survive me. When I am gone, lay my remains in some quiet place like this.

Beyond the smiling and the weeping

I shall be soon;

Beyond the waking and the sleeping,

Beyond the sowing and the reaping

I shall be soon.

Beyond the parting and the meeting

I shall be soon;

Beyond the farewell and the greeting,

Beyond this pulse's fever beating

I shall be soon.

Love, rest, and home!

—Horatius Bonar.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 14 (Good Friday, 1865)

Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel? II. Samuel 3: 38.

The War is Over—Jerusalem.

(To Major J. B. Merwin, who is yet living in Middlefield, Conn., and who, with Mr. Lincoln, stumped the State of Illinois for Prohibition in 1855, on the morning of his assassination, April 14, 1865.)

Mr. Merwin, after Reconstruction the next great question will be the overthrow of the liquor traffic.

(To his wife, while out driving alone in the afternoon of his last day.)

Mary, we have had a hard time of it since we came to Washington, but I consider this day that the war is over. We must both be more cheerful in the future; between the war and the loss of our darling Willie, we have been very miserable.

(Last written words, given to Mr. Ashmun about 8 o'clock P.M. of the fatal evening.)

Allow Mr. Ashmun and friend to come in at 9 A.M. to-morrow.—
A. Lincoln, April 14, 1865.

(Last spoken words to his wife just before the assassin's bullet entered his brain.)

There is no city I desire so much to see as Jerusalem.

*Jerusalem! my glorious home!
My soul still pants for thee:
Then shall my labors have an end,
When I thy joys shall see.*

—Francis Baker.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 15

A sound of battle is in the land, and of great destruction. Jeremiah 50:22.

Call for Seventy-five Thousand Militia.

(Extracts from first Proclamation, calling for 75,000 men, April 15, 1861.)

Whereas, the laws of the United States have been for some time past, and now are opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed, in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, by a combination too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals by law; now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution and the laws, have thought fit to call forth and hereby do call forth the militia of the several States of the Union to the aggregate number of seventy-five thousand, in order to suppress said combination, and to cause the laws to be duly executed. . . . In every event, the utmost care will be observed, consistently with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of, or interference with property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens of any part of the country; and I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes within twenty days from this date.

*Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust!"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.*
—Francis Scott Key.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 16

The servant is free from his master. Job 3:19.

Slavery Abolished in District of Columbia.

(Congress having voted to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, the President signed the bill April 16, 1862, and sent a message to Congress. The following is an extract from the message.)

I have never doubted the constitutional authority of Congress to abolish slavery in this District, and I have ever desired to see the National Capital freed from the institution in some satisfactory way. Hence there has never been, in my mind, any question upon the subject except the one of expediency, arising in view of all the circumstances. If there be matters within and about this act which might have taken a course or shape more satisfactory to my judgment, I do not attempt to specify them. I am gratified that the two principles of compensation and colonization are both recognized and practically applied in the act.

*Speed on thy work, Lord God of Hosts!
And when the bondman's chain is riven,
And swells from all our guilty coasts
The anthem of the free to heaven,
Oh, not to those whom thou hast led
As with thy cloud and fire before,
But unto thee, in fear and dread,
Be praise and glory evermore.*

—Whittier.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 17

They shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee. Jeremiah 1:19.

Repel Force by Force.

(Part of the reply to a committee sent by the Virginia Convention, April 13, 1861, to ascertain his intended policy toward the rebellious States.)

In answer I have to say that, having at the beginning of my official term expressed my intended policy as plainly as I was able, it is with deep regret and mortification I now learn there is great and injurious uncertainty in the public mind as to what that policy is, and what course I intend to pursue. Not having as yet seen occasion to change, it is now my purpose to pursue the course marked out in the inaugural address. I commend a careful consideration of the whole document as the best expression I can give to my purpose. . . . By the words, "property and places belonging to the Government," I chiefly allude to the military posts and property which were in possession of the Government when it came into my hands. But if, as now appears to be true, in pursuit of a purpose to drive the United States authorities from these places, an unprovoked assault has been made upon Fort Sumter, I shall hold myself at liberty to repossess it, if I can, like places which had been seized before the Government was devolved upon me; and in any event I shall, to the best of my ability, repel force by force.

*Each soldier's name
Shall shine untarnished on the rolls of fame,
And stand the example of each distant age,
And add new luster to the historic page.*

—David Humphreys.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 18

Take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling-block to them that are weak. I. Corinthians 8:9.

Definition of the Word "Liberty."

(Extract from an address delivered April 18, 1864, at a fair held at Baltimore for benefit of United States Sanitary Commission.)

When the war commenced three years ago, no one expected that it would last this long, and no one supposed that the institution of slavery would be materially affected by it. But here we are. The war is not yet ended, and slavery has been materially affected or interfered with. So true it is that man proposes and God disposes. The world is in want of a good definition of the word "liberty." We all declare ourselves to be for liberty, but we do not all mean the same thing. Some men mean that a man can do as he pleases with himself and his property. With others, it means that some men can do as they please with other men and other men's labor. Each of these things is called liberty, although they are entirely different. To give an illustration: A shepherd drives the wolf from the throat of his sheep when attacked by him, and the sheep, of course, thanks the shepherd for the preservation of his life; but the wolf denounces him as despoiling the sheep of his liberty—especially if it be a black sheep.

*Canst thou, and honor'd with a Christian name,
Buy what is woman-born, and feel no shame?
Trade in the blood of innocence, and plead
Expedience as a warrant for the deed?
So may the wolf, whom famine has made bold
To quit the forest and invade the fold.*

—Cowper.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 19

The Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work. I. Peter 1:17.

The Black Soldier.

(Extract from a speech delivered at a Sanitary Fair, April 18, 1864. Continued from preceding page.)

At the commencement of the war, it was doubtful whether black men would be used as soldiers or not. The matter was examined into very carefully, and after mature deliberation, the whole matter resting, as it were, with himself [the President], he, in his judgment, decided that they should. He was responsible for the act to the American people, to a Christian nation, to the future historian, and, above all, to his God, to whom he would have, one day, to render an account of his stewardship. He would now say that in his opinion the black soldier should have the same protection as the white soldier, and he would have it.

*"Now," the flag-sergeant cried,
"Though death and hell betide,
Let the whole nation see
If we are fit to be
Free in this land, or bound
Down, like the whining hound—
Bound with red stripes of pain
In our cold chains again!"
O what a shout there went
From the black regiment!*

—George Henry Baker.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 20

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates. Proverbs 31:31.

No Half-way Business About It.

(Said to a legal friend after receiving \$500 in a criminal case, soon after he commenced the practice of law.)

Look here, Judge, see what a heap of money I've got from the _____ case. Did you ever see anything like it? Why, I never had so much money in my life before, put it all together. I have got just five hundred dollars; if it were only seven hundred and fifty, I would go directly and purchase a quarter section of land and settle it upon my old stepmother.

(His friend proposed to loan him the deficiency, and suggested that the property be for her use, to revert to Lincoln upon her death.)

I shall do no such thing. It is a poor return, at the best, for all the good woman's devotion and fidelity to me, and there is not going to be any half-way business about it.

*I live for those who love me,
Whose hearts are kind and true;
For the heaven that smiles above me
And waits my spirit too;
For all human ties that bind me,
For the tasks my God assigned me,
For the bright hopes left behind me,
And all the good that I can do.*

—Byron.

APRIL 21

Let all your things be done with charity. I. Corinthians 16:14.

Common Rights of Citizens.

(To a prominent lady, in the winter of 1864, who requested the suppression of a certain influential Chicago newspaper.)

I fear you do not fully comprehend the danger of abridging the liberties of the people. Nothing but the very sternest necessity can ever justify it. A government had better go to the very extreme of toleration than to do aught that could be construed into an interference with, or to jeopardize in any degree, the common rights of its citizens.

*Would you both please and be instructed, too,
Watch well the rage of shining, to subdue;
Hear every man upon his favorite theme,
And ever be more knowing than you seem.
The lowliest genius will afford some light,
Or give a hint that had escaped your sight.*

—Stillingfleet.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 22 (Arbor Day)

I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits. Ecclesiastes 2:5.

Trees.

(Said in the presence of some ladies visiting the Soldiers' Home at Washington.)

Let me discourse on a theme which I understand. I know all about trees in the light of being a back woodsman. I'll show you the difference between spruce, pine, and cedar, and this shred of green, which is neither one nor the other, but a kind of illegitimate cypress. Trees are as deceptive in their likeness to one another as are certain classes of men, amongst whom none but a physiognomist eye can discern dissimilar moral features until events have developed them.

*Give fools their gold and knaves their power;
Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall;
Who sows a field, or trains a flower,
Or plants a tree is more than all.*

*For he who blesses most is blest;
And God and man shall own his scorth,
Who toils to leave as his bequest
An added beauty to the earth.*

—Whittier.

APRIL 23

Children . . . skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them. Daniel 1:4.

School of Events.

(Continued from conversation mentioned on preceding page.)

Do you know it would be a good thing if in all the schools proposed and carried out by the improvement of modern thinkers, we could have a school of events? It is only by that active development that character and ability can be tested. Understand me, I now mean men, not trees; *they* can be tried, and an analysis of their strength obtained less expensive to life and human interests than man's. What I say now is a mere whimsey, you know; but when I speak of a school of events, I mean one in which, before entering real life, students might pass through the mimic vicissitudes and situations that are necessary to bring out their powers and mark the calibre to which they are assigned. Thus one could select from the graduates an invincible soldier, equal to any position, with no such word as "fail"; a martyr to Right, ready to give up life in the cause; a politician too cunning to be outwitted; and so on. These things have all to be tried, and their sometimes failure creates confusion as well as disappointment. There is no more dangerous or expensive analysis than that which consists of trying a man.

*For noble youth, there is no thing so meet
As learning is, to know the good from ill:
To know the tongues, and perfectly indite,
And of the laws to have a perfect skill
Things to perform as right and justice will;
For honor is ordained for no cause
But to see right maintained by the laws.*
—Cavil.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 24

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers. Titus 3 : 1.

We Shall Try to Do Our Duty.

(From a speech at Leavenworth, Kansas, in spring of 1860.)

If we shall constitutionally elect a president, it will be our duty to see that you also submit. Old John Brown has been executed for treason against a State. We cannot object, even though he agreed with us in thinking slavery wrong. That cannot excuse violence, bloodshed, and treason. It could avail him nothing that he might think himself right. So, if we constitutionally elect a president, and, therefore, you undertake to destroy the Union, it will be our duty to deal with you as old John Brown has been dealt with. We shall try to do our duty. We hope and believe that in no section will a majority so act as to render such extreme measure necessary.

*Stern duty, daughter of the voice of God!
O duty! if that name thou love,
Who art a light to guide, a rod
To check the erring and reprove;
Thou who art victory and law,
When empty terrors overawe,
Give unto me, made lowly wise,
The spirit of self-sacrifice.*

—Wordsworth.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 25

Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. Psalms 22: 12.

A Yard full of Old Bulls.

(To a gentleman who was very strongly pressing the promotion of an officer to a "Brigadiership.")

But we have already more generals than we know what to do with. Now, look here, you are a farmer, I believe; if not, you will understand me. Suppose you had a large cattleyard full of all sorts of cattle—cows, oxen, bulls—and you kept killing and selling and disposing of your cows and oxen, in one way and another—taking good care of your bulls. By and by you would find that you had nothing but a yard full of old bulls, good for nothing under heaven. Now, it will be just so with the army, if I don't stop making brigadier-generals.

*In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife.*

—Longfellow.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 26

Every one in his business. Nehemiah 13:30.

Their Business, Not Mine.

(From a speech at National Hotel, Washington, March 17, 1865. See March 17.)

There are but few views or aspects of this great war upon which I have not said or written something, whereby my own opinion might be known. But there is one—the recent attempt of our erring brethren, as they are sometimes called, to employ the negro to fight for them. I have neither written nor made a speech on that subject, because that was their business, not mine; and if I had a wish upon the subject, I had not the power to introduce it, or make it effective. The great question with them was whether the negro, being put into the army, will fight for them. I do not know, and therefore cannot decide. They ought to know better than we. I have in my lifetime heard many arguments why the negroes ought to be slaves; but if they fight for those who would keep them in slavery, it will be a better argument than I have yet heard. He who will fight for that ought to be a slave.

*The negro, spoiled of all that nature gave,
The free-born man thus shrank into a slave,
His passive limbs to measur'd looks confined,
Obey'd the impulse of another mind;
A silent, secret, terrible control
That ruled his sinews and repress'd his soul.
Not for himself he waked at morning light,
Tolled the long day, and sought repose at night,
His rest, his labor, pastime, strength, and health
Were only portions of a master's wealth.*

—Montgomery.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 27

Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation. Daniel 8:19.

The End Near at Hand.

(From speech delivered at Washington, March 17, 1865.
Continued from preceding page.)

While I have often said that all men ought to be free, yet would I allow those colored persons to be slaves who want to be, and next to them those white people who argue in favor of making other people slaves. I will say one thing in regard to the negroes being employed to fight for them. I do know he cannot fight and stay at home and make bread too; and as one is about as important as the other to them, I don't care which they do. . . . But they cannot fight and work both. We must now see the bottom of the enemy's resources. They will stand out as long as they can, and if the negro will fight for them, they must allow him to fight. They have drawn upon their last branch of resources, and we can now see the bottom. I am glad to see the end so near at hand.

*'Mid the din of arms, when the dust and smoke
In clouds are curling o'er thee,
Be firm till the enemy's ranks are broke,
And they fall or flee before thee!
But I would not have thee towering stand
O'er him who 's for mercy crying,
But bow to the earth, and with tender hand
Raise up the faint and dying.*

—Miss Gould.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 28

They shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks. Joel 2:7.

Our Men Not Moles, or Birds.

(Reply to a Baltimore committee, April 28, 1861, requesting that soldiers be not allowed to march through Maryland.)

You, gentlemen, come here to me and ask for peace on any terms, and yet have no word of condemnation for those who are making war on us. You express great horror of bloodshed, and yet would not lay a straw in the way of those who are organizing in Virginia and elsewhere to capture this city. The rebels attack Fort Sumter, and your citizens attack troops sent to the defense of the Government, and the lives and property in Washington, and yet you would have me break my oath and surrender the Government without a blow. There is no Washington in that—no Jackson in that—no manhood nor honor in that. I have no desire to invade the South; but I must have troops to defend this Capital. Geographically it lies surrounded by the soil of Maryland; and mathematically the necessity exists that they should come over her territory. Our men are not moles, and can't dig under the earth; they are not birds, and can't fly through the air. There is no way but to march across, and that they must do. But in doing this there is no need of collision. Keep your rowdies in Baltimore, and there will be no bloodshed. Go home and tell your people that if they will not attack us, we will not attack them; but if they do attack us, we will return it, and that severely.

*The traitor's foot is on thy soil, Maryland, my Maryland!
Let not his touch thy honor spoil, Maryland, my Maryland!
Wipe out the unpatriotic gore that feck'd the streets of Baltimore,
And be the loyal State of yore, Maryland, my Maryland.*

—Anonymous.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 29

And one went out into the field to gather herbs. . . . And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O thou man of God, there is death in the pot. II. Kings 4 : 39, 40.

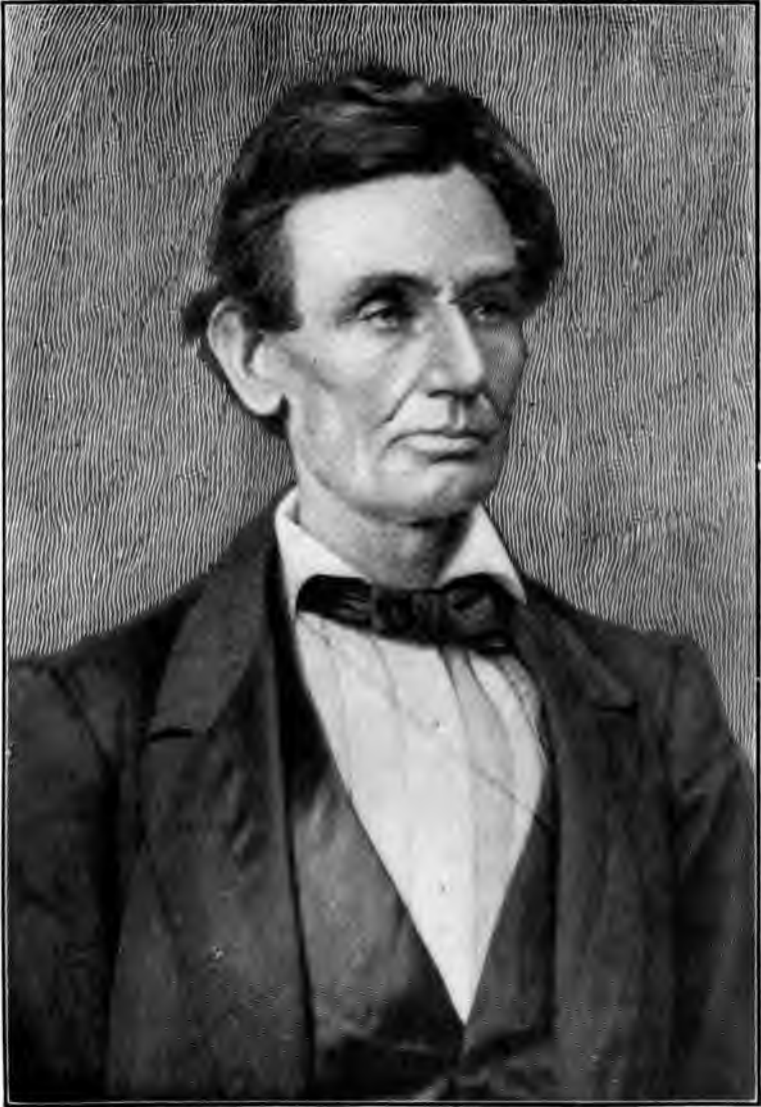
Greens—Try Them on Jake.

(To a delegation of bankers, protesting to severity of Congress in taxing State Banks.)

Now that reminds me of a circumstance that took place in a neighborhood where I lived when I was a boy. In the spring of the year the farmers were very fond of the dish which they called "greens." One day after dinner, a large family were taken very ill. The doctor was called in, who attributed it to the greens, of which all had freely partaken. Living in the family was a half-witted boy named Jake. On a subsequent occasion, when greens had been gathered for dinner, the head of the house said, "Now, boys, before running any further risk in this thing, we will first try them on Jake. If he stands it, we are all right." And just so, I suppose, Congress thought it would try this tax on the State Banks.

*I have lived long enough to be rarely mistaken,
And had my full share of life's changeable scenes ;
But my woes have been solaced by good greens and bacon,
And my joys have been doubled by bacon and greens.
What a thrill of remembrance e'en now they awaken
Of childhood's gay morning, and youth's sunny scenes ;
When, one day we had greens and a plateful of bacon,
And the next we had bacon and a plateful of greens.*

—Anonymous.



A. LINCOLN *From an Early Photograph*



The Lincoln Family at the White House .

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

APRIL 30

At the last it biteth like a serpent. Proverbs 23 : 22.

A Hideous Serpent.

(To a number of Kentuckians who insisted that troops should not be sent through their State to put down the war in Tennessee.)

I am a good deal like the farmer who, returning to his home one winter night, found his two sweet little boys asleep with a hideous serpent crawling over their bodies. He could not strike the serpent without wounding or killing the children, so he calmly waited until it had moved away. Now, I do not want to act in a hurry about this matter; I don't want to hurt anybody in Kentucky; but I will get the serpent out of Tennessee.

*Thinkest thou there are no serpents in the world
But those which glide along the grassy sod
And sting the luckless foot that presses them?
There are, who, in the path of social life,
Do bask their spotted skins in Fortune's sun
And sting the soul—aye, till its healthful frame
Is chang'd to secret, festering, sore disease,
So deadly is the wound.*

—Anonymous.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 1

A time to keep silence, and a time to speak. Ecclesiastes 3:7.

Shifting Scenes of the Present.

(From address to the General Assembly of Ohio, at Columbus, February 13, 1861.)

There has fallen upon me a task which did not rest even upon the Father of his Country, and so feeling, I cannot but turn and look for the support without which it will be impossible for me to perform that great task. I turn, then, and look to the great American people, and to that God who has never forsaken them. Allusion has been made to the interest felt in relation to the policy in the new administration. In this I have received from some a degree of credit for having kept silence, and from others some depreciation. I still think that I was right. In the varying and repeatedly shifting scenes of the present, and without a precedent which could enable me to judge by the past, it has seemed fitting that before speaking upon the difficulties of the country, I should have gained a view of the whole field so as to be sure after all—at liberty to modify and change the course of policy as future events may make a change necessary. I have not maintained silence from any want of real anxiety.

*I ask not that for me the plan
Of good and ill be set aside,
But that the common lot of man
Be nobly borne and glorified.
And that, though it be mine to know
How hard the stoniest pillow seems,
Good angels still may come and go
About the places of my dreams.*

—Phoebe Cary.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 2

Be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man. I. Kings 2:2.

Leaning Toward Grant.

(To General John M. Thayer, in early part of the Rebellion.)

Somehow or other, I have always felt a leaning toward Grant, and have been inclined to place confidence in him. Ever since he sent that memorable message to Buckner at Donelson, when the latter asked for terms of surrender—"No terms but unconditional surrender; I propose to move immediately upon your works"—I have had great confidence in Grant, and have felt that he was a man I could tie to, though I have never seen him. It is a source of much satisfaction that my confidence in him has not been misplaced.

(To Mr. F. B. Carpenter, the artist, in 1864.)

The great thing about Grant, I take it, is his perfect coolness and persistency of purpose. I judge he is not easily excited, which is a great element in an officer, and has the grit of a bulldog! Once let him get his "teeth" in, and nothing can shake him off.

*Stick to your aim; the mongrel's hold will slip,
But only crowbars loose the bulldog's lip;
Small as he looks, the jaw that never yields
Drags down the bellowing monarch of the fields.*

—O. W. Holmes.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 3

About forty thousand prepared for war passed over before the Lord unto battle. Joshua 4 : 13.

For a Period of Three Years.

(Proclamation issued May 3, 1861, calling for 42,000 additional volunteers.)

Whereas, existing exigencies demand immediate and adequate measures for the protection of the National Constitution and the preservation of the National Union by the suppression of the insurrectionary combination now existing in several States for opposing the laws of the Union, and obstructing the execution thereof, to which end a military force, in addition to that called forth by my proclamation of the fifteenth of April in the present year, appears to be indispensably necessary; now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, and Commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy thereof, and of the militia of the several States when called into actual service, do hereby call into the service of the United States forty-two thousand and thirty-four volunteers, to serve for a period of three years, unless sooner discharged, and to be mustered into service as infantry and cavalry.

*Listen, young heroes! your country is calling!
Time strikes the hour for the brave and the true!
Now, while the foremost are fighting and falling,
Fill up the ranks that have opened for you.*

—O. W. Holmes.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 4

There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee; . . . take away the accursed thing from among you. Joshua 7:13.

Gradual Abolishment of Slavery.

(A recommendation to Congress, March 6, 1862.)

I recommend the adoption of a joint resolution by your honorable bodies, which shall be substantially as follows:

Resolved. That the United States ought to cooperate with any State which may adopt gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State in its discretion, to compensate for the inconvenience, both public and private, produced by such change of system. . . . While it is true that the adoption of the proposed resolution would be merely initiatory, and not within itself a practical measure, it is recommended in the hope that it would soon lead to important practical results. In full view of my great responsibility to my God and to my country, I earnestly beg the attention of Congress and the people to the subject.

*Hasten the day, just Heaven!
Accomplish thy design;
And let the blessings thou hast freely given,
Freely on all men shine;
Till equal rights be equally enjoy'd,
And human power for human good employ'd;
Till law, and not the sovereign, rule sustain,
And peace and virtue undisputed reign.*

—Henry Ware, Jr.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 5

The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way. Proverbs 14 : 8.

Naturally Anti-Slavery.

(From a letter to A. G. Hedges, Franfort, Kentucky,
April 4, 1864.)

I am naturally anti-slavery. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong. I cannot remember when I did not so think and feel. And yet I have never understood that the Presidency conferred upon me an unrestricted right to act officially upon this judgment and feeling. It was in the oath I took, that I would, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. I could not take the office without taking the oath. Nor was it my view that I might take an oath to get power, and break the oath in using the power. I understood, too, that, in ordinary civil administration, this oath even forbade me to practically indulge my primary, abstract judgment on the moral question of slavery. I had publicly declared this many times, and in many ways. And I aver that, to this day, I have done no official act in mere deference to my abstract judgment and feeling on slavery.

*Sun of the moral world! effulgent source
Of man's best wisdom and his steadiest force,
Soul-searching Freedom! here assume thy stand,
And radiate hence to every distant land.*

—Joel Barlow.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 6

He shall not fall nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth. Isaiah 42:4.

Palpable Facts.

(From a letter to A. G. Hodges, April 4, 1864. Continued from preceding page.)

When, in March and May and July, 1862, I made earnest and successive appeals to the Border States to favor compensated emancipation, I believed the indispensable necessity for military emancipation and arming the blacks would come, unless averted by that measure. They declined the proposition, and I was, in my best judgment, driven to the alternative of either surrendering the Union, and with it the Constitution, or of laying strong hand upon the colored element. I chose the latter. In choosing it, I hoped for greater gain than loss; but of this I was entirely confident. More than a year of trial can show no loss by it, in our foreign relations; none in our home popular sentiment; none in our white military force—no loss by it anyhow or anywhere. On the contrary, it shows a gain of quite a hundred and thirty thousand soldiers, seamen, and laborers. These are palpable facts, about which, as facts, there can be no caviling. We have the men, and we could not have had them without the measure.

*There was something
In my native air that buoyed my spirits up
Like a ship on the ocean tossed by storms,
But proudly still bestriding the high waves
And holding on her course.*

—Byron.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 7

The whole disposing thereof is of the Lord. Proverbs 16:33.

Events Have Controlled Me.

(From letter addressed to A. G. Hodges, April 4, 1864.
Continued from preceding page.)

I attempt no compliments to my own sagacity. I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me. Now, at the end of three years' struggle, the Nation's condition is not what either party or any man devised or expected. God alone can claim it. Whither it is tending, seems plain. If God now wills the removal of a great wrong, and wills also that we of the North, as well as you of the South, shall pay fairly for our complicity in that wrong, impartial history will find therein new cause to attest and revere the justice and goodness of God.

*The future faith must ever souls inspire
With loftiest love of goodness, justice, truth,
Imbue, head, hand, and heart with strong desire
To lift humanity to higher plains, to teach the youth
That all are children of one common Sire,
Who loves to have his offspring mounting higher, higher,
Cementing in one vast, all-comprehending family
The nations of to-day with the nations that are yet to be.
This creed, the essence of our holy Christianity,
Shall fill the world and last through all eternity.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 8

Many are my persecutors and mine enemies; yet do I not decline from thy testimonies. P'salms 119: 157.

The Attacks Made on Me.

(To an army officer.)

If I were to try to read, much less answer all the attacks made on me, this shop might as well be closed for any other business. I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference.

*He knows it all—how tired I grew
When pressing duties that I knew
Were mine, I left in part undone,
And how I grieved at set of sun,
And could not rest till his sweet tone
Of calming love had gently shown
Me that he did not blame—he knew
That I had tried my best to do.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 9

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise :
be thankful unto him, and bless his name. Psalms 100 : 4.

Special Gratitude to God.

(Prayer and Thanksgiving Proclamation, issued May 9, 1864.)

TO THE FRIENDS OF UNION AND LIBERTY: Enough is known of
army operations within the last five days to claim our special
gratitude to God. While what remains undone demands our most
serious prayers to, and reliance upon Him (without whom all
human effort is vain), I recommend that all patriots, at their
homes, at their places of public worship, and wherever they may
be, unite in common thanksgiving and prayer to Almighty God.

*Great Ruler of the earth and skies,
A word of thine almighty breath
Can sink a world, or bid it rise:
Thy smile is life, thy frown is death.*

*To thee we pay our grateful songs,
Thy kind protection still implore;
Oh, may our hearts and lives and tongues
Confess thy goodness and adore.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 10

Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy. Matthew 5:7.

He Got Away from Me.

(To a party of gentlemen who, as the war was closing, were very anxious to know what he would do with Jeff. Davis, President of the Confederate States.)

There was a boy in Springfield who saved up his money and bought a coon, which, after the novelty wore off, became a great nuisance. He was one day leading him through the streets, and had his hands full to keep clear of the little vixen, who had torn his clothes half off of him. At length he sat down on the curbstone, completely fagged out. A man passing was stopped by the lad's disconsolate appearance, and asked the matter. "Oh," was the reply, "this coon is such a trouble to me!" "Why don't you get rid of him, then?" said the gentleman. "Hush!" said the boy; "don't you see he is gnawing his rope off? I am going to let him do it, and then I will go home and tell the folks that he got away from me."

*Sense is our helmet, wit is but the plume.
The plume exposes, 't is our helmet saves.
Sense is the di'mond, weighty, solid, sound;
When cut by wit, it casts a brighter beam;
Yet, wit apart, it is a diamond still.*

—Young.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 11

The glory of young men is their strength. Proverbs 20 : 29.

How I Earned My First Dollar.—No. 1.

(Related in the presence of Hon. W. H. Seward and others.)

Seward, you never heard, did you, how I earned my first dollar? Well, I was about eighteen years of age. I belonged, you know, to what they call, down South, the "scrubs"; people who do not own slaves are nobody there. But we had succeeded in raising, chiefly by my labor, sufficient produce, as I thought, to justify me in taking it down the river to sell. After much persuasion, I got the consent of mother to go, and constructed a little flatboat, large enough to take a barrel or two of things that we had gathered, with myself and little bundle, down to New Orleans. A steamer was coming down the river. We have, you know, no wharves on the Western streams; and the custom was, if passengers were at any of the landings, for them to go out in a boat, the steamer stopping and taking them on board.

*Down the smooth stream of life the stripling darts,
Gay as the morn; bright glows the vernal sky.
Hope swells the sails, and passion steers his course
Safe glides his bark along the shore
Where virtue takes her stand; but if too far
He launches forth beyond discretion's mark.
Sudden the tempest scouls, the surges roar,
Blot his fair play, and plunge him in the deep.*

—Porteus.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 12

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth. Ecclesiastes 11:9.

How I Earned My First Dollar.—No. 2.

(Continued from preceding page.)

I was contemplating my new flatboat, and wondering whether I could make it stronger or improve it in any particular, when two men came down to the shore in carriages with trunks, and, looking at the different boats, singled out mine, and asked, "Who owns this?" I answered, somewhat modestly, "I do." "Will you," said one of them, "take us and our trunks out to the steamer?" "Certainly," said I. I was very glad to have the chance of earning something. I supposed that each of them would give me two or three bits. The trunks were put on my flatboat, the passengers seated themselves on the trunks, and I sculled them out to the steamboat. They got on board, and I lifted up their heavy trunks and put them on deck. The steamer was about to put on steam again, when I called out that they had forgotten to pay me. Each of them took from his pocket a silver half-dollar, and threw it on the floor of my boat. I could scarcely believe my eyes as I picked up the money. Gentlemen, you may think it was a very little thing, and in these days it seems to me a trifle; but it was a most important incident in my life. I could scarcely credit that I, a poor boy, had earned a dollar in less than a day—that by honest work I had earned a dollar. The world seemed wider and fairer before me. I was a more hopeful and confident being from that time.

*Promise of youth! fair as the form
Of Heaven's benign and golden bow,
Thy smiling arch begets the storm
And sheds a light on every woe.*

—James G. Brooks.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 13

The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Psalms 126: 3.

Glad at What Has Happened.

(In response to a serenade after the important victories in the "Wilderness," in May, 1864.)

I am very much obliged to you for the compliment of this call, though I apprehend it is owing more to the good news received to-day from the army than to a desire to see me. I am, indeed, very grateful to the brave men who have been struggling with the enemy in the field, to their noble commanders who have directed them, and especially to our Maker. Our commanders are following up their victories resolutely and successfully. I think, without knowing the particulars of the plans of General Grant, that what has been accomplished is of more importance than at first appears. I believe I know (and am especially grateful to know) that General Grant has not been jostled in his purposes; that he has made all his points; and to-day he is on his line, as he purposed before he moved his armies. I will volunteer to say that I am very glad at what has happened; but there is a great deal still to be done. While we are grateful to all the brave men and officers for the events of the past few days, we should, above all, be very grateful to Almighty God, who gave us the victory.

*Ah, never shall the land forget
How gushed the life-blood of the brave,
Gushed warm with hope and courage yet,
Upon the soil they fought to save.*
—Bryant.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 14

The churches of Christ salute you. Romans 16:16.

God Bless All The Churches.

(In response to a delegation, headed by Bishop Ames, from the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, May 14, 1864.)

GENTLEMEN: In response to your address, allow me to attest the accuracy of its historical statements, endorse the sentiments it expresses, and thank you, in the Nation's name, for the sure promise it gives. Nobly sustained, as the Government has been by all the churches, I would utter nothing which might in the least appear invidious against any. Yet, without this, it may fairly be said that the Methodist Episcopal Church, not less devoted than the best, is, by its greater numbers, the most important of all. It is no fault in others that the Methodist Church sends more soldiers to the field, more nurses to the hospitals, and more prayers to heaven than any. God bless the Methodist Church; bless all the churches; and blessed be God, who, in this our great trial, giveth us the churches.

*Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod;
We are not divided, all one body we—
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.*

—S. B. Gould.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 15

Our help is in the name of the Lord. Psalms 124 : 8.

The Divine Interposition and Favor.

(From his reply to Presbyterian clergyman, in May, 1863.)

It has been my happiness to receive testimonies of a similar nature from, I believe, all denominations of Christians. They are all loyal, but perhaps not in the same degree, or in the same numbers, but I think they all claim to be loyal. This to me is most gratifying, because from the beginning I saw that the issue of our great struggle depended upon the Divine interposition and favor. If we had that, all would be well. The proportions of this rebellion were not for a long time understood. I saw that it involved the greatest difficulties, and would call forth all the powers of the country. The end is not yet. . . . As a pilot I have used my best exertions to keep afloat our ship of state, and shall be glad to resign my trust at the appointed time to another pilot, more skillful and successful than I may prove. In every case and at all hazards, the Government must be perpetuated. Relying as I do upon the Almighty Power, and encouraged as I am by the resolutions which you have just read, with the support which I receive from Christian men, I shall not hesitate to use all the means at my control to secure the termination of this rebellion, and will hope for success.

*Lead safely through, O God, we pray,
Lead us, O lead us all the way.
We are but safe when safe with thee,
No other safety can there be;
Pitfalls and darkness strew our way,
Lead us, dear Father, lead, we pray.*

—Dr. I. L. Kephart.



Log Cabin in which Abraham Lincoln Lived



The House in which President Lincoln died in Washington, D. C.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 16

This man's religion is vain. James 1:26.

Not the Right Kind of Religion.

(To a lady from Tennessee, when he ordered the release of her husband as a prisoner of war.)

You say your husband is a religious man; tell him, when you meet him, that I am not much of a judge of religion, but that in my opinion the religion which sets men to rebel and fight against their government, because, as they think, that government does not sufficiently help *some* men to eat their bread in the sweat of *other* men's faces, is not the sort of religion upon which people can get to heaven.

*In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread,
Till thou return unto the ground; for thou
Out of the ground wast taken, know thy birth,
For dust thou art, and shalt to dust return.*

—Milton.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 17

Can ye not discern the signs of the times? Matthew 16. 3.

Signs of the Times.

(An appeal to the slave States to adopt gradual emancipation, with compensation, May 19, 1862.)

To the people of these States I now earnestly appeal. I do not argue; I beseech you to make the arguments for yourselves. You cannot, if you would, be blind to the signs of the times. I beg of you a calm and enlarged consideration of them, ranging, if it may be, far above personal and partisan politics. This proposal makes common cause for a common object, casting no reproaches upon any. It acts not the Pharisee. The change it contemplates would come gently as the dews of heaven, not rending or wrecking anything. You will not embrace it? So much good has not been done by one effort in all the past, as, in the providence of God, it is now your high privilege to do. May the vast future not have to lament that you have neglected it.

*We are living, we are dwelling
In a grand and awful time,
In an age on ages telling—
To be living is sublime.*

*Oh! let all the soul within you
For the truth's sake go abroad;
Strike! let every nerve and sinew
Tell on ages—tell for God.*

—A. C. Coxe.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 18

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.
Proverbs 21 : 23.

I Will Not Buy It With Pledges.

(To a party who wished to negotiate for rewards for promise of influence in the Chicago Convention, May, 1860.

No, gentlemen, I have not asked for the nomination, and I will not now buy it with pledges. If I am nominated and elected I shall not go into the presidency as the tool of this man or that man, or as the property of any factor or clique.

(In response to a telegram from the Chicago Nominating Convention, May 17, 1860, requesting him to make certain pledges.)

I authorize no bargains, and will be bound by none.

(To those standing by when he received the dispatch announcing his nomination, May 18, 1860.)

Gentlemen, you had better come up and shake my hand while you can; honors elevate some men, you know. Well, gentlemen, there is a little short woman at our house who is probably more interested in this dispatch than I am; if you will excuse me, I will take it up and let her see it.

*O honored name, revered and undecaying,
Engraven on each heart, O soul sublime!
That, like a planet through the heavens straying,
Outlives the wreck of time.*

—Eugene J. Hall.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 19

I have exalted one chosen out of the people. Psalms 89 : 19.

Sensible of the Great Responsibility.

(Reply to the committee formally announcing his first nomination for the Presidency, at his home in Springfield, Illinois, May 19, 1860.)

I tender to you, and through you to the Republican National Convention, and all the people represented in it, my profoundest thanks for the high honor done me, which you now formally announce. Deeply, and even painfully sensible of the great responsibility which is inseparable from this high honor—a responsibility which I could almost wish had fallen upon some one of the far more eminent men and experienced statesmen whose distinguished names were before the convention, I shall, by your leave, consider more fully the resolutions of the convention, denominated the platform, and, without any unnecessary or unreasonable delay, respond to you, Mr. Chairman, in writing, not doubting that the platform will be found satisfactory, and the nomination gratefully accepted.

*His life was gentle; and the elements
So mixed in him, that nature might stand up
And say to all the world, This is a man.*

—Shakespeare.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 20

Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee. Lettlicus 10:9.

Adam's Ale.

(To the committee, after his response to their notifying him of his nomination, at his home in Springfield, Illinois, May 10, 1860.)


Gentlemen, we must pledge our mutual healths in the most healthy beverage which God has given to man. It is the only beverage I have ever used or allowed in my family, and I cannot conscientiously depart from it on the present occasion; it is pure Adam's ale from the spring.

*Oh, you need not offer brewer's liquid bitterness to me,
I will buy no unclean lager when a better drink is free.*

*No, I do not want your whiskey with its venom and its sting;
I will fill my glass with water, pure, cold water at the spring.
Wine may tempt the very thoughtless, but I cannot see the charm
In a glass so full of evil, when cold water does no harm.*

*Pure, cold water just suits me,
I will buy no baneful poisons when cold water is so free.*

—W. C. Martin.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 21

He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. II. Samuel 23 : 3.

Most Happy to Co-operate.

(Letter of acceptance addressed to Hon. George Ashmun, president of National Convention, dated May 23, 1860.)

I accept the nomination tendered me by the convention over which you presided, and of which I am formally apprised in the letter of yourself and others, acting as a committee of the convention for that purpose. The declaration of principles and sentiments, which accompanies your letter, meets my approval; and it shall be my care not to violate or disregard it in any part. Imploping the assistance of Divine Providence, and with due regard to the views and feelings of all who were represented in the convention; to the rights of all the States, and Territories, and the people of the Nation; to the inviolability of the Constitution, and to the perpetual union, harmony, and prosperity of all, I am most happy to coöperate for the practical success of the principles declared by the convention.

*No north, no south, no east, no west,
But one, united, free!
The Palm and Pine in Union blest
Now stand for liberty.
From lakes to gulf, from sea to sea,
May union stronger grow;
Thus teach the world humanity
And might together go.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 22

Fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revillings.
Isalah 51:7.

The Party Lash and Ridicule.

(From a speech delivered in Bloomington, before the first
Republican State Convention in Illinois, May 29, 1856.)

The party lash and the fear of ridicule will overawe justice and liberty; for it is a singular fact, but none the less a fact, and well known by the most common experience, that men will do things under the terror of the party lash that they would not on any account or for any consideration do otherwise. Men who will march up to the mouth of a loaded cannon without shrinking will run from the terrible name of "Abolitionist," even when pronounced by a worthless creature whom they, with good reason, despise.

*The brave man seeks not popular applause,
Nor overpower'd with arms deserts his cause;
Unsham'd though foil'd, he does the best he can,
Force is of brutes, but honor is of man.*

—Dryden.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 23

Ye will revolt more and more. Isaiah 1:5.

Revolutions Do Not Go Backward.

(Extract from speech before the first Republican State Convention, held at Bloomington, Illinois, May 29, 1856. Continued from preceding page.)

Like the great Juggernaut, the great idol, it crushes everything that comes in its way, and makes a—or, as I read once, in a black-letter law book, "a slave is a human being who is legally not a *person* but a *thing*." If the safeguards to liberty are broken down, as is now attempted, when they have made *things* of all the free negroes, how long, think you, before they will begin to make *things* out of poor white men? Be not deceived. Revolutions do not go backward. The founder of the Democratic party declared that *all* men were created equal. His successor in the leadership has written the word "*white*" before men, making it read "*all white men are created equal*." Pray, will or may not the Know-nothings, if they should get in power, add the word "Protestant," making it read "*all Protestant white men*"?

*Oh! think what anxious moments pass between
The birth of plots, and their last fatal periods;
Oh! 't is a dreadful interval of time,
Full'd with horror, and big with death.*

—Addison.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 24

Let your moderation be known to all men. Philippians 4 : 5.

Pacific Measures.

(Extract from speech before first Republican State Convention held in Bloomington, Illinois, May 29, 1856. Continued from preceding page.)

As it now stands, we must appeal to the sober sense and patriotism of the people. We shall make converts day by day; we shall grow strong by calmness and moderation; we shall grow strong by the violence and injustice of our adversaries. And, unless truth be a mockery and justice a hollow lie, we shall be in the majority after a while, and then the revolution which we shall accomplish will be none the less radical from being the result of pacific measures. The battle of freedom is to be fought out on principle. Slavery is a violation of the eternal right. We have temporized with it from the necessities of our condition; but as sure as God reigns and schoolchildren read, that black, foul lie can never be consecrated into God's hallowed truth.

*And when our children turn the page,
To ask what triumphs marked our age—
What we achieved to challenge praise,
Through the long line of future days—
This let them read, and hence instruction draw:*

*"Here were the many bless'd,
Here found the virtues rest,
Faith link'd with Love, and Liberty with Law."*

—Sprague.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 25

Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Galatians 6 : 7.

You Vote Against Your Interest and Principles.

(Extract from speech before first Republican State Convention, at Bloomington, Illinois, May 29, 1856. Continued from preceding page.)

Once let slavery get planted in a locality, by ever so weak or doubtful title, and ever so small numbers, and it is like the Canada thistle or Bermuda grass—you can't root it out. You yourself may detest slavery; but your neighbor has five or six slaves, and he is an excellent neighbor, or your son has married his daughter, and they beg you to help save their property, and you vote against your interest and principle to accommodate a neighbor, hoping that your vote will be on the losing side. And others do the same; and in those ways slavery gets a sure foothold. And when that is done the whole mighty Union—the force of the Nation—is committed to its support.

Man should dare all things that he knows are right,

And fear to do no act save what is wrong;

But, guided safely by his inward light,

And with a permanent belief, and strong,

In Him who is our Father and our Friend,

He should walk steadfastly unto the end.

—Phoebe Cary.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 26

The Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw; and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire. II. Kings 6:17.

Music of the Union.

(Extract from speech before the first Republican State Convention at Bloomington, Illinois, May 29, 1856. Continued from preceding page.)

The Union is undergoing a fearful strain; but it is a stout old ship, and has weathered many a hard blow, and "the stars in their courses," aye, an invisible power, greater than the puny efforts of men, will fight for us. But we ourselves must not decline the burden of responsibility, nor take counsel of unworthy passions. Whatever duty urges us to do or to omit, must be done or omitted; and the recklessness with which our adversaries break the laws, or counsel their violation, should afford no example for us. Therefore, let us revere the Declaration of Independence; let us continue to obey the Constitution and the laws; let us keep step to the music of the Union.

*Yes! rear thy guardian Hero's form
On thy proud soil, thou Western World!
A watcher through each sign of storm,
O'er Freedom's flag unfurl'd.
There as before a shrine ye bow,
Bid thy true sons their children lead;
The language of that noble brow
For all things good shall plead.*

—Mrs. Hemans.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 27

Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.
I. Corinthians 9:25.

A Difficult Role.

(Extract from letter written May 27, 1863, to General Schofield, who had been appointed to command in Missouri in place of General Curtis, who had been removed on account of local difficulties.)

After months of labor to reconcile the difficulty, it seemed to grow worse and worse, until I felt it my duty to break it up somehow, and as I could not remove Governor Gamble, I had to remove General Curtis. Now that you are in the position, I wish you to undo nothing merely because General Curtis or Governor Gamble did it, but to exercise your own judgment, and do right for the public interest. Let your military measures be strong enough to repel the invaders and keep the peace, and not so strong as to unnecessarily harass and persecute the people. It is a difficult rôle, and so much greater will be the honor if you perform it well. If both factions, or neither, shall abuse you, you will probably be about right. Beware of being assailed by one and praised by the other.

*Those are bravest who shall rise
All earthly ills above,
And wear the crown of high emprise
In meekness and in love;
The sun may leave the mossy vales,
Yet lap the hills in glorious light;
Look up! God's wisdom never fails,
He leads us through the night.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 28

His locks are bushy, and black as a raven. Solomon's Song 5:11.

Story About My Hair.

(To Colonel Cannon.)

By the way, I can tell you a good story about my hair. When I was nominated at Chicago, an enterprising fellow thought that a great many people would like to see how Abe Lincoln looked, and, as I had not long before sat for a photograph, the fellow, having seen it, rushed over and bought the negative. He at once got out no end of wood-cuts, and so active was their circulation they were soon selling in all parts of the country. Soon after they reached Springfield I heard a boy crying them for sale on the streets. "Here's your likeness of Abe Lincoln!" he shouted. "Buy one, price only two shillings! Will look a good deal better when he gets his hair combed!"

*His gaunt, gnarled hands, his unkept bristling hair,
His garb uncouth, his bearing ill at ease,
His lack of all we prize as debonaire,
Of power or will to shine, of art to please;*

*My shallow judgment I had learned to rue,
Noting how to occasion's height he rose;
How his quaint wit made home truth seem more true,
How iron-like his temper grew by blows.*

—Tom Taylor.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 29

Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee. Genesis 13:8.

Jones and Sarah Ann.

(In reply to a friend, who, with many others was surprised that the President took no official notice of General Phelps, who had issued a proclamation early in the war, freeing slaves near New Orleans.)

Well, I feel about that a good deal as a man whom I will call Jones, whom I once knew, did about his wife. He was one of your meek men, and had the reputation of being badly henpecked. At last, one day his wife was seen switching him out of the house. A day or two afterward a friend met him in the street, and said: "Jones, I have always stood up for you, as you know; but I am not going to do it any longer. Any man who will stand quietly and take a switching from his wife, deserves to be horsewhipped." Jones looked up with a wink, patting his friend on the back.

"Now, *don't*," said he; "why, it didn't *hurt* me any; and you've no idea what a power of good it did Sarah Ann."

*Jerry, dying intestate, his relatives claimed,
While his widow most vilely his mem'ry defamed.
"What!" cries she, "must I suffer because the old knave,
Without leaving a will, is laid snug in the grave?"
"That's no wonder," says one, "for 't is very well known,
Since he married, poor man, he 'd no will of his own."
—Anonymous.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 30 (Decoration Day)

Go forth into the field, then behold the slain with the sword. Jeremiah 14:18.

We Have Come to Dedicate.

(Delivered at the dedication of the National Cemetery at the Gettysburg battlefield, November 19, 1863.)

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now, we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

*Great leader true! throughout all time
The world will hear thy voice;
Because of thee a holier clime
Bid liberty rejoice!
'T was fitting you should tell of those
Who wrote in blood their song,
And here thy nobler thought disclose
How nations shall be strong!*

—Mary M. Adams.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

MAY 31

Glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good. **Romans 2:10.**

Owen Lovejoy.

(Extract from a letter to Honorable J. H. Bryant, May 30, 1864, in reply to an invitation to attend a meeting to take measures to erect a monument to the memory of Honorable Owen Lovejoy.)

My personal acquaintance with him commenced only about ten years ago, since when it has been quite intimate; and every step in it has been one of increasing respect and esteem, ending with his life, in no less affection on my part. It can be truly said of him, that, while he was personally ambitious, he bravely endured the obscurity which the unpopularity of his principles imposed, and never accepted official honors until those honors were ready to admit his principles with him. Throughout my heavy and perplexing responsibilities here to the day of his death, it would scarcely wrong any other to say he was my most generous friend. Let him have the marble monument, along with the well-assured and more endearing one in the hearts of those who love liberty unselfishly for all men.

*For this is the lesson that history
Has taught since the world began,
That those whose memories never die,
That shine like stars in our human sky
And brighter grow as the years roll by,
Are men who have lived for man.*

—W. A. Edgerton.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 1 (Children's Day)

The children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David. **Matthew 21:15.**

Sermon to Boys.—Little People.

(Mr. Lincoln often gave the following advice, which he called his "sermon" to boys.)

Don't drink, don't smoke, don't chew, don't swear, don't gamble, don't lie, don't cheat. Love your fellow-men and love God. Love truth, love virtue, and be happy.

(In answer to a memorial from the children and young people of Concord, Massachusetts, petitioning for the freedom of all slave children.)

Tell those little people I am very glad their young hearts are so full of just and generous sympathy, and that while I have not the power to grant all they ask, I trust they will remember that God has; and that it seems his will to do it.

*Ah! what would the world be to us
If the children were no more
We should dread the desert behind us
Worse than the dark before.*

—Longfellow.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 2

Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. II. Chronicles 20:15.

Providence Not Unmindful of the Struggle.

(Said in the presence of Ex-Senator J. F. Wilson and others, in June, 1862.)

I not only believe that Providence is not unmindful of the struggle in which this nation is engaged, but I also believe that he will compel us to do right in order that he may do these things, not so much because we desire them, as because they accord with his plans of dealing with this nation, in the midst of which he means to establish justice. I think he means that we shall do more than we have yet done in furtherance of his plans, and he will yet open the way for our doing it. I have felt his hand upon me in great trials, and submitted to his guidance, and I trust that as he shall further open the way I will be ready to walk therein, relying on his help and trusting to his goodness and wisdom.

*Leave God to order all thy ways,
And hope in him, whate'er betide;
Thou 'lt find him in the evil days
Thy all sufficient strength and guide.*

—George Neumarck.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 3

Do justly and love mercy. Micah 6:8.

Parallel Case.

(To Attorney-General Bates, who requested, as a personal favor, the parole of the son of an old friend in Virginia, who had been captured.)

Bates, I have an almost parallel case. The son of an old friend of mine in Illinois ran off and entered the rebel army. The young fool has been captured, and is a prisoner of war, and his old broken-hearted father has asked me to send him home, promising, of course, to keep him there. I have not seen my way clear to do it; but if you and I unite our influence with this administration, I believe we can manage it together and make two loyal fathers happy. Let us make them our prisoners.

'T is mercy! mercy!

*The mark of Heav'n impress'd on humankind;
Mercy that glads the world, deals joy around;
Mercy that smooths the dreadful brow of power,
And makes dominion light; mercy that saves,
Binds up the broken heart, and heals despair.*

—Rowe.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 4

It came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land. Acts 27:44

We'll Get You Safe Across.

(In reply, at the White House, to some gentlemen from the West, who were excited and troubled about the commissions or omissions of the Administration.)

Gentlemen, suppose all the property you were worth was in gold, and you had put it in the hands of Blondin to carry across the Niagara River on a rope, would you shake the cable, or keep shouting out to him, "Blondin, stand up a little straighter—Blondin, stoop a little more—go a little faster—lean a little more to the north—lean a little more to the south?" No! you would hold your breath as well as your tongue, and keep your hands off until he was safe over. The Government is carrying an immense weight. Untold treasures are in their hands. They are doing the very best they can. Don't badger them. Keep silence, and we'll get you safe across.

*From storms of rage and dangerous rocks of pride,
Let thy strong hand this little vessel guide.
It was thy hand that made it: through the tide
Impetuous of this life let thy command
Direct my course and bring me safe to land.*

—Prior.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 5

Good tidings of your faith and charity. I. Thessalonians 3:6.

The Christian Commission.

(In response to the chairman of a delegation of the Christian Commission, the members having rendered aid and refreshments to wounded soldiers of the terrible series of battles in the Wilderness, in 1864.)

I desire also to add to what I have said, that there is one association whose objects and motives I have never heard in any degree impugned or questioned; and that is the Christian commission. And in "these days of villainy," as Shakespeare says, that is a record, gentlemen, of which you may justly be proud!

(Later, in a conversational tone.)

I believe, however, it is old "Jack Falstaff" who talks about "villainy," though of course Shakespeare is responsible.

*Oh, may our sympathizing breasts
That generous pleasure know,
Kindly to share in others' joy
And weep for others' woe.*

*When poor and helpless sons of grief
In deep distress are laid,
Soft be our hearts their pains to feel,
And swift our hands to aid.*

—Doddridge.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 6

Because thou didst rely on the Lord, he delivered them into thine hand.
II. Chronicles 16 : 8.

My Whole Reliance in God.

(To the synod of the old-school Presbyterians of Baltimore, who waited on him in a body.)

I saw upon taking my position here, I was going to have an administration, if administration at all, of extraordinary difficulty. It was without exception a time of the greatest difficulty this country ever saw. I was early brought to a lively reflection that nothing in my power, or others, to rely upon would succeed without direct assistance from the Almighty. I have often wished that I was a more devout man than I am. Nevertheless, amid the greatest difficulties of my administration, when I could not see any other resort, I would place my whole reliance in God, knowing that he would decide for the right.

*Just as God leads, I onward go,
Oft amid thorns and briars keen ;
God does not yet his guidance show,
But in the end it shall be seen
How, by a loving Father's will,
Faithful and true, he leads me still,
My trembling footsteps guiding.*
—Lampertins.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 7

A man beholding his natural face in a glass. James 1:23.


A Singular Occurrence.

(Related to Mr. F. B. Carpenter and Major John Hay on the evening of his second nomination, June 8, 1864.)

A very singular occurrence took place the day I was nominated at Chicago, four years ago, of which I am reminded to-night. In the afternoon of the day, returning home from down town, I went upstairs to Mrs. Lincoln's sitting-room. Feeling somewhat tired, I lay down upon a couch in the room directly opposite a bureau upon which was a looking-glass. As I reclined, my eyes fell upon the glass, and I saw distinctly *two* images of myself, exactly alike, except that one was a little paler than the other. I arose, and lay down again, with the same result. It made me quite uncomfortable for a few moments, but some friends coming in, the matter passed out of my mind. The next day, while walking in the street, I was suddenly reminded of the circumstance, and the disagreeable sensation produced by it returned. I had never seen anything of the kind before, and I did not know what to make of it. I determined to go home and place myself in the same position, and if the same effect was produced, I would make up my mind that it was the result of some principle of refraction or optics which I did not understand, and dismiss it. I tried the experiment with a like result; and, as I said to myself, accounting for it on some principle unknown to me, it ceased to trouble me. But some time ago I tried to produce the same effect *here*, by arranging a glass and a couch in the same position, without success.

*A mirror has been well defined
An emblem of a thoughtful mind,
For, look upon it when you will,
You find it is reflecting still.*

—Anonymous.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 8

What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.
Matthew 19: 6.

Joint Names of Liberty and Union.

(Part of the response to the committee, June 9, informing him of his second nomination for the Presidency at Baltimore, Maryland, June 8, 1864.)

I know no reason to doubt that I shall accept the nomination tendered, and yet perhaps I should not declare definitely before reading and considering what is called the platform. I will say now, however, that I approve the declaration of so amending the Constitution as to prohibit slavery throughout the nation. When the people in revolt, with the hundred days' explicit notice that they could within those days resume their allegiance without the overthrow of their institution, and that they could not resume it afterward, elected to stand out, such an amendment of the Constitution as is now proposed became a fitting and necessary condition to the final success of the Union cause. Such alone can meet and cover cavils. I now perceive its importance and embrace it. In the joint names of Liberty and Union, let us labor to give legal form and practical effort.

*Sprinkled with starry light,
Spread its fair emblems from mountain to shore,
While through the sounding sky
Loud rings the nation's cry,
"Union and Liberty! one evermore!"*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 9

Then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then shalt thou have good success. Joshua. 1:8.

More than Baltimore Conventions.

(In response to the Ohio delegation in the Baltimore Nominating Convention, June 9, 1864.)

GENTLEMEN: I am very much obliged to you for this compliment. I have just been saying, and as I have just said it, I will repeat it: The hardest of all speeches which I have to answer is a serenade. I never know what to say on such occasions. I suppose that you have done me this kindness in connection with the action of the Baltimore Convention which has recently taken place, and with which, of course, I am very well satisfied. What we want still more than Baltimore Conventions or Presidential elections is success under General Grant. I propose that you constantly bear in mind that the support you owe to the brave officers and soldiers in the field is of the very first importance, and we should therefore bend all our energies to that point. Now, without detaining you any longer, I propose that you help me to close up what I am now saying with three rousing cheers for General Grant and the officers and soldiers under his command.

*Crown ye the brave! crown ye the brave!
As through your streets they ride,
And the sunbeams dance on the polished arms
Of the warriors, side by side;
Shower on them your sweetest flowers,
Let the air ring with their praise.*

—Mrs. Hemans.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 10

The Lord render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness.
1. Samuel 26:23.

Not Entirely Unworthy.

(In response to a delegation of the National Union League,
in East Room of White House, June 9, 1864.)

I am not insensible at all to the personal compliment there is in this, yet I do not allow myself to believe that any but a small portion of it is to be appropriated as a personal compliment to me. The convention and the nation, I am assured, are alike animated by a higher view of the interests of the country, for the present and the great future, and the part I am entitled to appropriate as a compliment is only that part which I may lay hold of as being the opinion of the convention and the league, that I am not entirely unworthy to be entrusted with the place I have occupied for the last three years. I have not permitted myself, gentlemen, to conclude that I am the best man in the country; but I am reminded in this connection of a story of an old Dutch farmer, who remarked to a companion once that it was not best to swap horses when crossing a stream.

*His words are bonds, his oaths are oracles;
His love sincere, his thoughts immaculate;
His tears, pure messengers sent from his heart;
His heart as far from fraud as heaven from earth.*

—Shakespeare.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 11

He that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death. Exodus 21:16.

Worse than the Most Depraved Murderer.

(In response to a gentleman from Massachusetts with a petition to pardon one who had been convicted for being engaged in the slave trade. He had been sentenced to five years' imprisonment and fined \$1,000. He had served his time, but was still held for the fine. He acknowledged his guilt, and was very penitent.)

My friend, that is a very touching appeal to our feelings. You know my weakness is to be, if possible, too easily moved by appeals for mercy, and if this man were guilty of the foulest murder that the arm of man could perpetrate I might forgive him on such an appeal; but the man who could go to Africa, and rob her of her children, and sell them into interminable bondage, with no other motive than that which is furnished by dollars and cents, is so much worse than the most depraved murderer, that he can never receive pardon at my hands. No! he may rot in jail before he shall have liberty by any act of mine!

*What wish can prosper, or what prayer
For merchants rich in cargoes of despair,
Who drive a loathsome traffic, gauge and span,
And buy the muscles and the bones of a man?
The tender ties of father, husband, friend,
All bonds of nature in that moment end,
And each endures, while yet he draws his breath,
A stroke as fatal as the scythe of death.*

—Cowper.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 12

When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise. Proverbs 21 : 11.

Silence the Agitator and Save the Boy.

(Extract from a lengthy letter, written June 12, 1863, in reply to New York Democrats, who, among other things, ask for the release of Mr. Vallandigham, who has been arrested for disloyalty.)

Long experience has shown that armies cannot be maintained unless desertion shall be punished by the severe penalty of death. The case requires, and the law and the Constitution sanction this punishment. Must I shoot a simple-minded soldier boy who deserts, while I must not touch a hair of a wily agitator who induces him to desert? This is none the less injurious when effected by getting a father, or brother, or friend into a public meeting, and there work upon his feelings until he is persuaded to write the soldier boy that he is fighting in a bad cause, for a wicked administration of a contemptible government, too weak to punish him if he shall desert. I think that, in such a case, to silence the agitator and save the boy is not only constitutional, but withal a great mercy.

*That talking knave
Consumes his time in speeches to the rabble,
And sows sedition up and down the city,
Picking up discontented fools, helping
The senators and government: destroying
Faith among honest men, and praising knaves.*

—O'wcay.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 13

Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time, . . . and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment. Judges 4 : 4, 5.

By No Means Excluding Females.

(From his letter in *Sangamon Journal*, Springfield, Illinois, June 13, 1836, announcing himself a candidate for the Legislature.)

The candidates are called upon, I see, to show their hands. Here is mine. I go for all sharing the privileges of government who assist in bearing its burdens. Consequently, I go for admitting all the whites to the rights of suffrage, by no means excluding females. . . . While acting as their representative, I shall be governed by their will on all subjects upon which I have the means of knowing what their will is; and upon all others, I shall do what my judgment tells me will best advance their interests.

*And well the poet, at her shrine,
May bend and worship while he soons;
To him she is a thing divine,
The inspiration of his line,
His lov'd one, and his muse.
If to his song the echo rings
Of fame—'t is woman's voice he hears;
If ever from his lyre's proud strings
Flow sounds like rush of angel wings,—
'T is that she listens while he sings,
With blended smiles and tears.*

—Halleck.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 14 (Flag Day)

In the name of our God we will set up our banners. Psalms 20 : 5.

Magnificent flag of the Country.

(Extract from speech before the Legislature of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, February 22, 1861, after he had spoken at Independence Hall and raised the flag.)

Besides this, my friends there had provided a magnificent flag of the country. They had arranged it so that I was given the honor of raising it to the head of the staff. And when it went up I was pleased that it went to its place by the strength of my own feeble arm, when, according to the arrangement, the cord was pulled, and it floated gloriously to the wind, without an accident, in the light, glowing sunshine of the morning. I could not help hoping that there was, in the entire success of that beautiful ceremony, at least something of an omen of what is to come. In the whole of that proceeding I was a very humble instrument. I had not provided the flag; I had not made the arrangement for elevating it to its place; I had applied but a very small portion of my feeble strength in raising it. In the whole transaction I was in the hands of the people who had arranged it, and if I can have the same generous cooperation of the people of the nation, I think the flag of our country may still keep flaunting gloriously.

*Flag of the free heart's hope and home,
By angel hands to valor given,
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in heaven!
Forever float that standard sheet
Where breathes the foe but falls before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us!*
—Charles Rodman Drake.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 15

The mighty are gathered against me. . . . They run and prepare themselves without my fault. Psalms 59:3, 4.

No fault of Mine.

(Extract from speech before Legislature of Pennsylvania, February 22, 1861. Continued from preceding page.)

It is not with any pleasure that I contemplate the possibility that a necessity may arise in this country for the use of the military arm. While I am exceedingly gratified to see the manifestations upon your streets of your military force here, and exceedingly gratified at your promises here to use that force upon a proper emergency—while I make these acknowledgements, I desire to repeat, in order to preclude any possible misconstruction, that I do most sincerely hope that we shall have no use for them; that it will never become their duty to shed blood, and most especially never to shed fraternal blood. I promise that, so far as I may have wisdom to direct, if so painful a result shall in any wise be brought about, it shall be through no fault of mine.

*O turn thy edged sword another way;
Strike those that hurt, and hurt not those that help!
One drop of blood drawn from thy country's bosom
Should grieve thee more than streams of foreign gore;
Return thee, therefore, with a flood of tears,
And wash away thy country's stained spots.*

—Shakespeare.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 16

If a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. Mark 3 : 25.

A Divided House Cannot Stand.

(Extract from speech delivered at Springfield, Illinois, June 16, 1858, at the close of Republican Convention, at which time he was nominated for the United States Senate.)

If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could better judge what to do, and how to do it. We are now far into the fifth year since a policy was initiated with the avowed object and confident promise of putting an end to slavery agitation. Under the operation of that policy, that agitation has not only not ceased, but has constantly augmented. In my opinion, it will not cease until a crisis shall have been reached and passed. "A house divided against itself cannot stand." I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction, or its advocates will push it forward till it shall become alike lawful in all the States, old as well as new, North as well as South. Have we no tendency to the latter condition? Let any one who doubts, carefully contemplate that now almost complete legal combination—piece of machinery, so to speak—compounded of the Nebraska doctrine, and the Dred Scott decision.

*"United, we stand; divided, we fall!"
It made and preserves us a nation.
The union of lakes, the union of lands,
The union of States none can sever—
The union of hearts, the union of hands,
And the flag of our Union forever.*

—George P. Morris.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 17

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.
Proverbs 14:34.

Nation Cannot Live on Injustice.

(Said in defense of his "Divided House" speech of June 16, 1858, some of his friends having severely criticised it.)

Friends, I have thought about this matter a great deal, have weighed the question from all corners, and am thoroughly convinced the time has come when it should be uttered; and if it must be that I must go down because of this speech, then let me go down linked to truth—die in the advocacy of what is right and just. This nation cannot live on injustice. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," I say again and again.

(To some friends at Bloomington, Ill.)

You may think the speech was a mistake; but I have never believed it was, and you will see the day when you will consider it the wisest thing I ever did.

*He was not of that strain of counsellors
That, like a turf of rushes in a brook,
Bends every way the current turns itself,
Yielding to every puff of appetite
That comes from majesty, but with true zeal
He faithfully declared all.*

—Brewer.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 18

Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war. *Isalah*
3:25.

War is Terrible.

(Remarks at a Philadelphia Fair for the benefit of the
Sanitary Commission, June 16, 1864.)

War, at the best, is terrible, and this war of ours, in its magnitude and in its duration, is one of the most terrible. It has deranged business, totally in many localities, and partially in all localities. It has destroyed property and ruined homes; it has produced a national debt and taxation unprecedented, at least in this country; it has carried mourning to almost every home, until it can, at most, be said, "The heavens are hung in black." Yet the war continues, and several relieving coincidents have accompanied it from the very beginning which have not been known, as I understand or have any knowledge of, in any former wars in the history of the world. The Sanitary Commission, with all its benevolent labors; the Christian Commission, with all its Christian and benevolent labors; and the various places, arrangements, so to speak, and institutions, have contributed to the comfort and relief of the soldiers.

*If you cannot in the conflict
Prove yourself a soldier true,
If where the fire and smoke are thickest
There 's no work for you to do,
When the battle-field is silent
You can go with careful tread,
You can bear away the wounded,
You can cover up the dead.*

—Mrs. Ellen H. Gates.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 19

The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another. Genesis 31:49.

Remembered by the Loved at Home.

(Remarks at a Philadelphia Fair for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission, June 16, 1864. Continued from preceding page.)

The motive and object that lie at the bottom of all these are most worthy; for, say what you will, after all, the most is due to the soldier, who takes his life in his hands and goes to fight the battles of his country. In what is contributed to his comfort when he passes to and fro, and in what is contributed to him when he is sick and wounded, in whatever shape it comes, whether from the fair and tender hand of woman, or from any other source, it is much, very much. But I think that there is still that which is of much value to him in the continued reminders he sees in the newspapers, that while he is absent he is yet remembered by the loved ones at home.

*The wife who girds her husband's sword,
'Mid little ones who weep or wonder,
And bravely speaks the cheering word,
What though her heart be rent asunder,
Doomed nightly in her dreams to hear
The bolts of death around him rattle,
Hath shed as sacred blood as e'er
Was poured upon the field of battle.*

—Thomas Buchanan Read.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 20

He maketh wars to cease. Psalms 46:9.

When is the War to End?

(Remarks at a Philadelphia Fair for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission, June 16, 1864. Concluded from preceding page.)

It is a pertinent question, often asked in the mind privately, and from one to the other, When is the war to end? Surely I feel as deep an interest in this question as any other can, but I do not wish to name a day, a month, or a year when it is to end. I do not wish to run any risk of seeing the time come, without our being ready for the end, for fear of disappointment because the time had come and not the end. We accepted this war for an object, a worthy object, and the war will end when that object is attained. Under God, I hope it never will end until that time.

*Many are the hearts that are weary to-night,
Wishing for the war to cease;
Many are the hearts looking for the right,
To see the dawn of peace:
Tenting to-night, tenting to-night,
Tenting on the old camp-ground.*

—Anonymous.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 21

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. II. Timothy 2:15.

I Will be Ready for Them.

(Said to a Mr. Emerson during the celebrated trial of the McCormick Patent Case at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1855. Mr. Lincoln and E. M. Stanton here met for the first time, each being engaged for the defense.)

I am going home to study law. I occupy a good position there, and I think that I can get along with the way things are done there now. But these college-trained men, who have devoted their whole lives to study, are coming West, don't you see? And they study their cases as we never do. They have got as far as Cincinnati now. They will soon be in Illinois. I am going home to study law! I am as good as any of them, and when they get out to Illinois I will be ready for them.

*Westward the course of empire takes its way,
The first four acts already past,
A fifth shall close the drama with the day;
Time's noblest offspring is the last.*

—Bishop Berkeley.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 22

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. Proverbs 17:22.

Petroleum V. Nasby.

(To a company of distinguished persons who called at the White House in 1864.)

Have you seen the "Nasby Papers"? There is a chap out in Ohio who has been writing a series of letters in the newspapers over the signature of Petroleum V. Nasby. Some one sent me a pamphlet collection of them the other day. I am going to write to "Petroleum" to come down here, and I intend to tell him if he will communicate his talent to me, I will "swap" places with him.

*The merry heart, the merry heart,
Of Heaven's gifts I hold thee best;
And they who feel its pleasant thro',
Though dark their lot, are truly blest.
From youth to age it changes not,
In joy and sorrow still the same;
When skies are dark, and tempests scowl,
It shines a steady beacon flame.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 23

Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. Hebrews 13:9.

Squatter Sovereignty.

(From a speech delivered at Chicago, Illinois, July 10, 1858. In reply to Senator Stephen A. Douglas.)

Popular sovereignty! everlasting popular sovereignty! Let us for a moment inquire into this vast matter of popular sovereignty. What is popular sovereignty? We recollect at an early period in the history of this struggle, there was another name for the same thing—*squatter sovereignty*. It was not exactly popular sovereignty, but squatter sovereignty. What do those terms mean? What do those terms mean when used now? A vast credit is taken by our friend, the Judge, in regard to his support of it, when he declares the last years of his life have been, and all the future years of his life shall be devoted to this matter of popular sovereignty. What is it? Why, it is sovereignty of the people! What was squatter sovereignty! I suppose if it had any significance at all it was the right of the people to govern themselves, to be sovereign in their own affairs while they were squatted down in a country not their own, while they had squatted on a territory that did not belong to them, in the sense that a State belongs to the people who inhabit it—when it belonged to the nation—such right to govern themselves was called “squatter sovereignty.”

*This sov'reign passion, scornful of restraint,
Even from the birth affects supreme command,
Swells in the breast with restless force,
O'erbears each gentler motion of the mind.*

—Dr. Johnson.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 24

According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do. Deuteronomy 17: 11.

Judicial Decisions.

(From a speech delivered at Springfield, Illinois, June 26, 1857.)

Judicial decisions have two uses—first to absolutely determine the case decided; and, secondly, to indicate to the public how similar cases will be decided when they arise. For the latter use, they are called “precedents” and “authorities.” . . . We think the Dred Scott decision is erroneous. We know the court that made it has often overruled its own decisions, and we shall do what we can to have it overrule this. We offer no resistance to it. . . . Judicial decisions are of greater or less authority as precedents, according to circumstances. That this should be so, accords both with common sense and the customary understanding of the legal profession.

*Let none direct thee what to do or say,
Till thee thy judgment of the matter say;
Let not the pleasing many thee delight,
First judge if those whom thou dost please, judge right.*
—Denham.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 25

Remember them that are in bonds. Hebrews 13:3.

Lock of a Hundred Keys.

(From a speech at Springfield, Illinois, June 26, 1857.
Continued from preceding page.)

In those days our Declaration of Independence was held sacred by all, and thought to include all; but now, to aid in making the bondage of the negro universal and eternal, it is assailed, sneered at, construed, hawked at, and torn, till if its framers could rise from their graves, they could not at all recognize it. All the powers of earth seem rapidly combining against him. Mammon is after him; ambition follows, philosophy follows, and the theology of the day is fast joining the cry. They have him in his prison house; they have searched his person and left no prying instrument with him. One after another they have closed the heavy iron doors upon him; and now they have him, as it were, bolted in with a lock of a hundred keys, which can never be unlocked without the concurrence of every key; the keys in the hands of a hundred different men, and they scattered to a hundred different and distant places; and they stand musing as to what invention, in all the dominions of mind and matter, can be produced to make the impossibility of his escape more complete than it is.

*O Liberty! can man resign thee,
Once having felt thy generous flame?
Can dungeons, bolts, or bars confine thee,
Or whip thy noble spirit tame?
—Rouget de Lisle.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 26

To every man according to his several ability. Matthew 25:15.

Not Equal in all Respects.

(From a speech delivered at Springfield, Illinois, June 26, 1857. Continued from preceding page.)

I think the authors of that notable instrument intended to include *all* men, but they did not intend to declare all men equal in *all respects*. They did not mean to say all were equal in color, size, intellect, moral developments, or social capacity. They defined with tolerable distinctness in what respects they did consider all men created equal—equal with “certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” This they said and this they meant. They did not mean to assert the obvious untruth that all were then actually enjoying that equality, nor yet that they were about to confer it immediately upon them. In fact, they had no power to confer such a boon. They meant simply to declare the *right*, so that the *enforcement* of it might follow as fast as circumstances should permit.

*Examples I could cite you more;
But be content with these four;
For when one's proofs are aptly chosen,
Four are as valid as four dozen.*

—Prior.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 27

A man shall be commended according to his wisdom. Proverbs 12:8.

The Nomination Gratefully Accepted.

(From his letter of June 27, 1864, addressed to Honorable William Dennison, Chairman of Baltimore Convention, accepting the second nomination for the Presidency.)

Your letter of the 14th instant, formally notifying me that I have been nominated by the convention you represent for the Presidency of the United States, for four years from the 4th of March next, has been received. The nomination is gratefully accepted, as the resolutions of the convention—called the platform—are heartily approved. . . . I am especially gratified that the soldier and the seaman were not forgotten by the convention, as they forever must and will be remembered by the grateful country for whose salvation they devote their lives.

*The brave do never shun the light;
Just are their thoughts, and open are their tempers;
Truly without disguise they love or hate;
Still are they found in the fair face of day,
And heaven and men are judges of their actions.*

—Rowe.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 28

God . . . hath made of one blood all nations of men. Acts 17: 26.

Well to be a Little Color-Blind.

(In response to General Grant's suggestion, while at City Point, Virginia, in June, 1864, that the President should visit the colored troops who had so recently performed acts of bravery in front of Petersburg.)

Oh, yes, I want to take a look at those boys. I read with the greatest delight the accounts given in Mr. Dana's dispatch to the Secretary of War how gallantly they behaved. He said they took six out of the sixteen guns captured that day. I was opposed on nearly every side when I first favored the raising of colored regiments; but they have proved their efficiency, and I am glad they have kept pace with the white troops in the recent assaults. When we wanted every able-bodied man who could be spared to go to the front, and my opposers kept objecting to the negroes, I used to tell them that at such times it was just as well to be a little color-blind.

*We used to think the negro didn't count for very much—
Light-fingered in the melon patch and chicken yard, and such;
Much mixed in point of morals and absurd in point of dress,
The butt of droll cartoonists and the target of the press;
But we've got to reconstruct our views on color, more or less.*

—B. M. Channing.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 29

And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy. Acts 23:13.

Mr. Vallandigham.

(Extract from a lengthy letter written June 13, 1863, to Honorable Erastus Corning and others, who had written him a letter, enclosing resolutions passed at Albany, New York, criticising the President and his administration in many things, and requesting the discharge of Mr. Vallandigham, who had been arrested for disloyalty.)

One of the resolutions expresses the opinion of the meeting that arbitrary arrests will have the effect to divide and distract those who should be united in suppressing the rebellion, and I am specifically called on to discharge Mr. Vallandigham. I regard this as, at least, a fair appeal to me on the expediency of exercising a constitutional power which I think exists. In response to such appeal, I have to say, it gave me pain when I learned that Mr. Vallandigham had been arrested—that is, I was pained that there should have seemed to be a necessity for arresting him—and that it will afford me great pleasure to discharge him as soon as I can, by any means, believe the public safety will not suffer by it. I further say that, as the war progresses, it appears to me opinion and action which were in great confusion at first take shape and fall into more regular channels, so that the necessity for strong dealing with them gradually decreases. I have every reason to desire that it should cease altogether.

*The man who rises on his country's ruin,
Lives in a crowd of foes, himself the chief;
In vain his power, in vain his pomp and pleasure,
His guilty thoughts, those tyrants of the soul,
Steal in unseen, and stab him in his triumph.*

—Martyn.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JUNE 30

By wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety. Proverbs 24: 6.

The Act of Abraham.

(In reply to Mr. Dixon, a Congressman from Rhode Island, who was appointed to represent the views of a meeting of Governors of Northern States, June 28, 1862, urging for a more aggressive campaign.)

Dixon, you are a good fellow, and I have always had a good opinion of you. It is needless for me to say that what comes from those who sent you here is authoritative. The Governors of the Northern States are the North. What they decide must be carried out. Still, in justice to myself, you must remember that Abraham Lincoln is President of the United States. Anything that the President of the United States does, right or wrong, will be the act of Abraham Lincoln, and Abraham Lincoln will, by the people, be held responsible for the President's action. But I have a proposition to make to you. Go home and think the matter over. Come to me to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, and I will promise to do anything that you by then have determined upon as the right and proper thing to do. Good-night.

*All hail, great chieftain! Long will sweetly cluster
A thousand memories round your sacred name.
Nor time nor death shall dim the spotless luster
That shines upon your fame.*

—Eugene J. Hall.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 1

And Asa had an army of men . . . three hundred thousand . . . all these were mighty men of valour. II. Chronicles 14:8.

Call for Three Hundred Thousand Men.

(In reply, July 1, 1862, to an address by the Governors of seventeen States, expressing their belief in the readiness of the people to respond to more vigorous measures to end the Rebellion.)

Fully concurring in the wisdom of the views expressed to me in so patriotic a manner by you in the communication of the 28th day of June, I have decided to call into the service an additional force of three hundred thousand men. I suggest and recommend that the troops should be chiefly of infantry. . . . I trust that they may be enrolled without delay, so as to bring this unnecessary and injurious civil war to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion. An order fixing the quotas of the respective States will be issued by the War Department to-morrow.

*O Heaven, he cried, my bleeding country save!
Is there no hand on high to shield the brave?
Yet, though destruction sweep those lovely plains
Rise, fellow-men! our country yet remains!
By that dread name we wear the sword on high,
And swear for her to live! with her to die!*

—Campbell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 2

As thy days, so shall thy strength be. Deuteronomy 33 : 25.

We Still Have Strength.

(In reply, July 1, 1862, to General McClellan, who called for reinforcements.)

It is impossible to reënforce you for your present emergency. If we had a million of men, we could not get them to you in time. We have not the men to send. If you are not strong enough to face the enemy, you must find a place of security, and wait, rest, and repair. Maintain your ground if you can, but save the army at all events, even if you fall back to Fort Monroe. We still have strength enough in the country, and will bring it out.

*Hark! I hear the tramp of thousands
And of armed men the hum—
Lo! a nation's hosts have gathered
'Round the quick-alarining drum,
Saying, "Come,
Freemen, come,
Ere your heritage be wasted!"
Saith the sound-alarining drum.*

—F. B. Horte.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 3

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:16.

Time is Everything.

(To Governor Morton, Indiana, July 3, 1862.)

I would not want the half of 300,000 new troops if I could have them now. If I had 50,000 additional troops here now I believe I could substantially close the war in two weeks; but time is everything, and if I get the 50,000 new men in a month I shall have lost 20,000 old ones during the same month, having gained only 30,000, with the difference between the old and new troops still against me. The quicker you can raise the troops, the fewer you will have to send, and time is everything. Please act in view of this.

*They left their ploughshares in the mold,
The flocks and herds without a fold;
The stikle in the unshorn grain,
The corn half garnered on the plain,
And, mustered in their simple dress,
For wrongs to seek a stern redress;
To right those wrongs, come weal, come woe,
To perish or o'ercome the foe.*

—McLellan.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 4 (Independence Day)

Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.
Leviticus 25 : 10.

The Declaration of Independence.

(Extract from address at Independence Hall, Philadelphia,
February 22, 1861.)

I have never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence. I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who assembled here and adopted the Declaration of Independence. I have pondered over the toils that were endured by the officers and soldiers of the army who achieved that independence. I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this Confederacy so long together. It was not the mere matter of the separation of the colonies from the mother land, but something in that declaration giving liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but hope for the world for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance.

*Our fathers now their freedom strive to gain;
Their independence boldly now proclaim.
They pledge their fortunes, sacred honor, life,
And periled all amid the deadly strife.*

—John W. Barber.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 5

When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. Matthew 6:6.

Prayed for Victory at Gettysburg.

(Said to General Sickles, July 5, 1863, who was wounded at Gettysburg. Mr. Lincoln visited him. Gettysburg battle, July 1, 2, and 3, 1863.)

I will tell you how it was. In the pinch of your campaign up there, when everybody seemed panic-stricken, and nobody could tell what was going to happen, I went into my room one day and locked the door, and got down on my knees before Almighty God and prayed to him mightily for victory at Gettysburg. I told him that this was his war, and our cause his cause, but that we could not stand another Fredericksburg, or Chancellorsville; and then and there made a solemn vow to Almighty God that if he would stand by our boys at Gettysburg I would stand by him. And he *did*, and I *will*. And after that (I don't know how it was and I can't explain it) soon a sweet comfort crept into my soul that things would go all right at Gettysburg.

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.*

—Walford.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 6

The leaders of this people cause them to err. *Isalah 9:16.*

Danger in Being Mised.

(Said to a correspondent of the Boston Journal in July, 1864.)

I have faith in the people. They will not consent to disunion. The danger is in their being misled. Let them know the truth, and the country is safe. . . . I can't work less, but it isn't that—work never troubles me. Things look badly, and I can't avoid anxiety. Personally, I care nothing about a reelection; but if our divisions defeat us, I fear for the country.

*You fell! A nation's hopes seemed blighted,
While millions shuddered at your dreadful fall;
But God is good! His wondrous hand has righted
And reunited all.*

*You fell! but in your death you were victorious;
To molder in the tomb your form has gone,
While through the world your great soul grows more glorious
As years go gliding on.*

—Eugene J. Hall.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 7

They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily. Acts 17: 11.

The Great Book of God.

(From a speech to a committee of colored people who presented him with an elegant copy of the Bible from the colored people of Baltimore, July 4, 1864.)

I can only say now, as I have often said before, it has always been a sentiment with me that all mankind should be free. So far as I have been able, so far as came within my sphere, I have always acted as I believed was right and just, and done all I could for the good of mankind. I have, in letters and documents sent forth from this office, expressed myself better than I can now. In regard to the great Book, I have only to say it is the best gift which God has ever given man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this Book. But for that Book we could not know right from wrong. All those things desirable to man are contained in it. I return you my sincere thanks for this very elegant copy of the great Book of God which you present.

*Holy Bible, book divine,
Precious treasure, thou art mine;
Mine to tell me whence I came;
Mine to teach me what I am.*

—John Burton.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 8

Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience. I. Timothy 1:5.

No Prejudice Against the Southern People.

(Extract from a speech at Peoria, Illinois, 1854.)

Before proceeding, let me say, I think I have no prejudice against the Southern people. They are just what we would be in their situation. If slavery did not now exist among them, they would not introduce it. If it did now exist amongst us, we should not instantly give it up. This I believe of the masses North and South. Doubtless there are individuals on both sides who would not hold slaves under any circumstances; and others who would gladly introduce slavery anew, if it were out of existence. We know that some Southern men do free their slaves, go North, and become tip-top Abolitionists; while some Northern ones go South, and become most cruel slave-masters. When Southern people tell us they are no more responsible for the origin of slavery than we, I acknowledge the fact. When it is said that the institution exists, and that it is very difficult to get rid of it, in any satisfactory way, I can understand and appreciate the saying. I surely will not blame them for not doing what I should not know how to do myself.

*In Mississippi's Hall of Fame
Together they look down—
The statesman of immortal mold,
The soldier of renown.
The South delights to honor him
Who set the bondman free,
And Lincoln's pictured face to-day
Hangs side by side with Lee.*

—Minna Irving.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 9

Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. Exodus 14 : 13.

Gradual Emancipation.

(Extract from speech at Peoria, Illinois, in 1854. Continued from preceding page.)

If all earthly power were given me, I should not know what to do, as to the existing institution. My first impulse would be to free all the slaves, send them to Liberia—to their own native land. But a moment's reflection would convince me that whatever of high hope (as I think there is) there may be in this, in the long run, its sudden execution is impossible. If they were all landed there in a day, they would all perish in the next ten days; and there are not shipping and surplus money enough in the world to carry them there in many times ten days. What then? Free them all and keep them among us as underlings? Is it quite certain that this betters their condition? I think I would not hold one in slavery at any rate; yet the point is not clear enough to me to denounce people upon. What next? Free them, and make them politically and socially our equals? My own feelings will not admit of this; and if mine would, we well know that those of the great mass of white people will not. . . . A universal feeling, whether well or ill founded, cannot be safely disregarded. We cannot, then, make them equals. It does seem to me that systems of gradual emancipation might be adopted; but for their tardiness in this, I will not undertake to judge our brethren of the South.

*The broken heart which kindness never heals,
The home-sick passion which the negro feels
When, toiling, fainting in the land of canes,
His spirit wanders to his native plains.*

—Montgomery.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 10

Hear dilligently my speech, and my declaration. Job 13:17.

I Made a Prediction Only.

(Extract from speech at Chicago, Illinois, July 10, 1858, in reply to Judge Douglas, and in defense of his "Divided-House" speech. See June 16.)

He says that I am in favor of making war by the North upon the South for the extinction of slavery; that I am also in favor of inviting (as he expresses it) the South to a war upon the North, for the purpose of nationalizing slavery. Now, it is singular enough, if you will carefully read that passage over, that I did not say that I was in favor of anything in it. I only said what I expected would take place. I made a prediction only—it may have been a foolish one perhaps. I did not even say that I desired that slavery would be put in course of ultimate extinction. I do so now, however, so there need be no longer any difficulty about that. . . . Gentlemen, Judge Douglas informed you that this speech of mine was probably carefully prepared. I admit that it was. I am not a master of language; I have not a fine education; I am not capable of entering into a disquisition upon dialectics, as I believe you call it; but I do not believe the language I employed bears any such construction as Judge Douglas puts upon it. But I don't care about a quibble in regard to words. I know what I meant, and I will not leave this crowd in doubt, if I can explain to them what I really meant in the use of that paragraph.

*You have a natural wise sincerity,
A simple truthfulness;
And, though yourself not unacquaint with care,
Have in your heart wide room.*

—Lowell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 11

How hast thou helped him that is without power? how savest thou the arm that hath no strength? Job 26:2.

The Lever of Power.

(Address to the Senators and Representatives of the Border States, July 12, 1862.)

I intend no reproach or complaint when I assure you that, in my opinion, if you all had voted for the resolution in the gradual emancipation message of last March, the war would now be substantially ended. And the plan therein proposed is yet one of the most potent and swift means of ending it. Let the States which are in rebellion see definitely and clearly that in no event will the States you represent ever join their proposed confederacy, and they cannot much longer maintain the contest. But you cannot divest them of their hope to ultimately have you with them, as long as you show a determination to perpetuate the institution within your States; beat them at election as you have overwhelmingly done, and, nothing daunted, they still claim you as their own. You and I know what the lever of their power is. Break that lever before their faces, and they can shake you no more forever.

*I break your bonds and masterships,
And I unchain the slave;
Free be his heart and hand henceforth,
As wind and wandering wave.*

*To-day unbind the captive,
So only are ye unbound;
Lift up a people from the dust,
Trump of the rescue sound.*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 12

For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest. Isaiah 62:1.

For the Sake of the Whole Country.

(Extract from address to Senators and Representatives of the Border States July 12, 1862. Continued from preceding page.)

Most of you have treated me with kindness and consideration, and I trust you will not now think I improperly touch what is exclusively your own, when for the sake of the whole country I ask, Can you, for your States, do better than to take the course I urge? Discarding punctilio and maxims adapted to more manageable times, and looking only to the unprecedentedly stern facts of our case, can you do better in any possible event? You prefer that the constitutional relation of the States to the Nation shall be practically restored without disturbance of the institution; and if this were done, my whole duty, in this respect, under the constitution and my oath of office, would be performed. But it is not done, and we are trying to accomplish it by war.

*Come East, and West, and North,
By races, as snowflakes,
And carry my purpose forth
Which neither halts nor shakes.*

*My way fulfilled shall be,
For, in daylight or in dark,
My thunderbolt has eyes to see
His way home to the mark.*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 13

Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war. Proverbs 20:18.

Incidents of the War.

(Extract from address to Senators and Representatives of the Border States, July 12, 1862. Continued from preceding page.)

The incidents of the war cannot be avoided. If the war continues long, as it must if the object be not sooner attained, the institution in your States will be extinguished by mere friction and abrasion—by the mere incidents of the war. It will be gone, and you will have nothing valuable in lieu of it. Much of its value is gone already. How much better for you and your people to take the step which at once shortens the war and secures substantial compensation for that which is sure to be wholly lost in any other event. How much better to thus save the money which else we sink forever in the war. How much better to do it while we can, lest the war ere long render us pecuniarily unable to do it. How much better for you, as seller, and the Nation, as buyer, to sell out and buy out that without which the war never could have been, than to sink both the thing to be sold and the price of it in cutting one another's throats. I do not speak of emancipation at once, but of a decision at once to emancipate gradually.

*'T is not victory to win the field,
Unless we make our enemies to yield
More to our justice than our force; and so
As well instruct as overcome our foe.*

—Gomersall.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 14

And now, I pray you, consider from this day. Haggal 2 : 15.

Beloved History and Cherished Memories.

(Extract from address to Senators and Representatives of the Border States, July 12, 1862. Concluded from preceding page.)

Before leaving the capital, consider and discuss it among yourselves. You are patriots and statesmen, and as such I pray you consider this proposition, and at least commend it to the consideration of your States and people. As you would perpetuate popular government, for the best people in the world, I beseech you that you do in no wise omit this. Our common country is in great peril, demanding the loftiest views and boldest action to bring a speedy relief. Once relieved, its form of government is saved to the world; its beloved history and cherished memories are vindicated, and its happy future fully assured and rendered inconceivably grand. To you, more than to any others, the privilege is given to assure that happiness, and to thus link your own names therewith forever.

*Statesman, yet friend to truth! of soul sincere,
In action faithful, and in honor clear;
Who broke no promise, served no private end,
Who gained no title, and who lost no friend;
Ennobled by himself, by all approved,
And praised, unenvied, by the muse he loved.*

—Pope.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 15

The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace. Psalms 29:11.

Union and Fraternal Peace.

(Extract from Thanksgiving Proclamation issued July 15, 1863.)

Be it known, that I do set apart Thursday, the sixth day of August next, to be observed as a day for national thanksgiving, praise, and prayer; and I invite the people of the United States to assemble on that occasion in their customary places of worship, and in the form approved by their own conscience render the homage due to the Divine Majesty for the wonderful things he has done in the Nation's behalf, and invoke the influence of the Holy Spirit to subdue the anger which has produced and so long sustained a needless and cruel rebellion, to change the hearts of the insurgents, to guide the councils of the Government with wisdom adequate to so great a national emergency, and to visit with tender care and consolation, throughout the length and breadth of our land, all those who, through the vicissitudes of marches, voyages, battles, and sieges have been brought to suffer in mind, body, or estate, and finally to lead the whole Nation through paths of repentance and submission to the Divine will, back to the perfect enjoyment of union and fraternal peace.

*God bless our native land!
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night;
While the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do thou our country save
By thy great might.*

—Dwight.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 16

The glorious liberty of the children of God. Romans 8:21.

The Glorious Consummation.

(Extract from an address delivered at Springfield, Illinois,
July 16, 1852.)

The suggestion of the possible ultimate redemption of the African race and African continent was made twenty-five years ago. Every succeeding year has added strength to the hope of its realization. May it indeed be realized. Pharaoh's country was cursed with plagues, and his hosts drowned in the Red Sea for striving to retain a captive people who had already served them more than four hundred years. May like disaster never befall us! If, as the friends of colonization hope, the present and coming generations of our countrymen shall, by any means, succeed in freeing our land from the dangerous presence of slavery, and at the same time restoring a captive people to their long-lost fatherland, with bright prospects for the future, and this, too, so gradually that neither races nor individuals shall have suffered by the change, it will indeed be a glorious consummation.

*In the long vista of the years to roll,
Let me not see my country's honor fade;
Oh! let me see our land retain its soul!
Her pride in Freedom, and not Freedom's shade.*

—Keats.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 17

With him is an arm of flesh ; but with us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles. II. Chronicles 32 : 8.

Fight This Battle Upon Principle.

(From a speech delivered at Springfield, Illinois, July 17, 1858. Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas were candidates for the United States Senate.)

There is still another disadvantage under which we labor, and to which I will ask your attention. It arises out of the relative positions of two persons who stand before the State as candidates for the Senate. Senator Douglas is of world-wide renown. All the anxious politicians of his party, or who have been of his party for years past, have been looking upon him as certainly, at no distant day, to be the President of the United States. They have seen in his round, jolly, fruitful face, post-offices, land-offices, marshalships, and cabinet appointments, chargeships and foreign missions, bursting and sprouting out in wonderful exuberance, ready to be laid hold of by their greedy hands. And as they have been gazing upon this attractive picture so long, they cannot, in the little distraction that has taken place in the party, bring themselves to give up the charming hope; but with greedier anxiety they rush about him, sustain him, and give him marches, triumphal entries, and receptions beyond what even in the days of his highest prosperity they could have brought about in his favor. On the contrary, nobody has ever expected me to be President. In my poor, lean, lank face nobody has ever seen that any cabbages were sprouting out. These are disadvantages, all taken together, that the Republicans labor under. We have to fight this battle upon principle, and upon principle alone.

*A happy lot be thine, and larger light
Await thee there; for thou hast bound thy will
In cheerful homage to the rule of right
And lovest all, and doest good for all.*

—Bryant.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 18

To the counsellors of peace is joy. Proverbs 12:20.

Safe Conduct Both Ways.

(Safe conduct promised for rebel emissaries to visit Washington. Issued July 18, 1864.)

Any proposition which embraces the restoration of peace, the integrity of the whole Union, and the abandonment of slavery, and which comes by and with an authority that can control the armies now at war with the United States will be received and considered by the Executive Government of the United States, and will be met by liberal terms on substantial and collateral points; and the bearer thereof shall have safe conduct both ways.

*O Peace! the fairest child of heaven,
To whom the syrtian reign was given;
The vale, the fountain, and the grove,
With every softer scene of love:
Return, sweet peace! and cheer the weeping swain,
Return with ease and pleasure in thy train.*

—Thomson.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 19

The powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God. Romans 13 : 1, 2.

The Affair at Ft. Sumter.

(Extract from first message to Congress, July 4, 1861.)

By the affair at Fort Sumter, with its surrounding circumstances, that point was reached. Then and thereby the assailants of the Government began the conflict of arms—without a gun in sight, or in expectancy, to return their fire, save only a few in the fort sent to that harbor years before for their own protection, and still ready to give that protection in whatever was lawful. In this act, discarding all else, they have forced upon the country the distinct issue, immediate dissolution or blood, and this issue embraces more than the fate of these United States. It presents to the whole family of man the question whether a constitutional republic or democracy, a government of the people, by the same people, can or cannot maintain its territorial integrity against its own domestic foes. It presents the question whether discontented individuals, too few in numbers to control the Administration according to the organic law in any case, can always, upon the pretense made in this case, or any other pretenses, or arbitrarily without any pretense, break up their government, and thus practically put an end to free government upon the earth.

*Strike till the last armed foe expires ;
Strike for your altars and your fires ;
Strike for the green graves of your sires,
God, and your native land.*

—Halleck.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 20

A spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate. Isaiah 28 : 6.

Material for the Work is Abundant,

(From the first message to Congress, July 4, 1861. Continued from preceding page.)

It is now recommended that you give the legal means for making this contest a short and decisive one; that you place at the control of the Government for the work at least 400,000 men and \$400,000,000; that number of men is about one-tenth of those of proper ages within the regions where apparently all are willing to engage, and the sum is less than a twenty-third part of the money value owned by the men who seem ready to devote the whole. A debt of \$600,000,000 now is a less sum per head than was the debt of our Revolution when we came out of that struggle, and the money value in the country bears even a greater proportion to what it was then than does the population. Surely each man has as strong a motive now to preserve our liberties as each had to establish them. A rigid result at this time will be worth more to the world than ten times the men and ten times the money. The evidence reaching us from the country leaves no doubt that the material for the work is abundant, and that it needs only the hand of legislation to give it legal sanction, and the hand of the Executive to give it practical shape and efficiency.

*We 're coming, Father Abraham,
Strong hearts and ready hands;
From river, lake, and mountain
We are mustering our bands,
From boundless western prairie to
The old Atlantic shore.
We 're coming, Father Abraham,
Six hundred thousand more.*

—Gibbons.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 21

I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way. Psalms 119:128.

Ingenious Sophism.

(Extract from first message to Congress, July 4, 1861.
Continued from preceding page.)

It might seem at first thought to be of little difference whether the present movement at the South be called secession or rebellion. The movers, however, well understood the difference. At the beginning they knew that they could never raise their treason to any respectable magnitude by any name which implies violation of law; they knew their people possessed as much of moral sense, as much of devotion to law and order, and as much pride in its reverence for the history and government of their common country, as any other civilized and patriotic people. They knew they could make no advancement directly in the teeth of these strong and noble sentiments. Accordingly they commenced by an insidious debauching of the public mind; they invented an ingenious sophism, which, if conceded, was followed by perfectly logical steps through all the incidents of the complete destruction of the Union. The sophism itself is, That any State of the Union may, consistently with the Nation's Constitution, and therefore lawfully and peacefully, withdraw from the Union without the consent of the Union or of any other State.

*In knots they stand, or in rank they walk,
Serious in aspect, earnest in their talk:
Factionous, and favoring this or t' other side,
As their strong fancy or weak reason guide.*
—Dryden.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 23

The whole body fitly joined together and compacted. Ephesians 4 : 16.

The Union Older than the State.

(Extract from first message to Congress, July 4, 1861.
Continued from preceding page.)

What is sovereignty in the political sense of the word? Would it be far from wrong to define it a political community without a political superior? Tested by this, no one of our States, except Texas, ever was a sovereignty. And even Texas gave up the character on coming into the Union; by which act she acknowledged the Constitution of the United States, and the laws and treaties of the United States, made in pursuance of the Constitution, to be, for her, the supreme law of the land. The States have their *status* in the Union, and they have no other legal *status*. If they break from this they can do so only against law and by revolution. The Union, and not themselves separately, procured their independence and their liberty by conquest or purchase. The Union gave each of them whatever of independence and liberty it has. The Union is older than any of the States, and, in fact, it created them as States.

*Lord of the universe, shield us and guide us,
Trusting thee always, through shadow and sun!
Thou hast united us, who shall divide us?
Keep us, O keep us the many in one!
Up with our banners bright,
Sprinkled with starry light,
Spread its fair emblems from mountain to shore,
While through the sounding sky
Loud rings the nation's cry,
"Union and Liberty! One evermore!"*

—Anonymous.

JULY 23

The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again. Psalms 37:21.

Done Left to Pay the Debts.

(Extract from first message to Congress, July 4, 1861.
Continued from preceding page.)

The Nation is now in debt for money applied to the benefit of these so-called seceding States, in common with the rest. Is it just, either that creditors shall go unpaid or the remaining States pay the whole? A part of the present National debt was contracted to pay the old debt of Texas. Is it just that she shall leave and pay no part of this herself? Again, if one State may secede, so may another, and when all shall have seceded, none is left to pay the debts. Is this quite just to creditors? Did we notify them of this sage view of ours when we borrowed their money? If we now recognize this doctrine by allowing the seceders to go in peace, it is difficult to see what we can do if others choose to go, or to extort terms upon which they will promise to remain.

*Honor 's a sacred tie—the law of kings,
The noble mind's distinguishing perfection
That aids and strengthens virtue when it meets her,
And imitates her actions where she is not.*

—Addison.

JULY 24

Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them. Jeremiah 11:6.

Maintaining the Guarantee.

(Extract from first message to Congress, July 4, 1861.
Continued from preceding page.)

He desires to preserve the Government that it may be administered for all, as it was administered by the men who made it. Loyal citizens everywhere have a right to claim this of their Government, and the Government has no right to withhold or neglect it. It is not perceived that in giving it there is any coercion, conquest, or subjugation in any sense of these terms. The Government provided, and all the States have accepted the provision, "that the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government," but if a State may lawfully go out of the Union, having done so, it may also discard the republican form of government. So that to prevent its going out is an indispensable means to the end of maintaining the guarantee mentioned; and where an end is lawful and obligatory, the indispensable means to it are also lawful and obligatory.

*The honors of a name 't is just to guard;
They are a trust but lent us, which we take
And should, in reverence to the donor's fame,
With care transmit them down to other hands.*

—Shirley.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 25

Trust in the Lord, and do good. Psalms 37:3.

Renew Our Trust in God.

(Extract from first message to Congress, July 4, 1861.
Concluded from preceding page.)

In full view of his great responsibility, he has so far done what he has deemed his duty. You will now, according to your own judgment, perform yours. He sincerely hopes that your views and your actions may so accord with his as to assure all faithful citizens who have been disturbed in their rights, of a certain and speedy restoration to them, under the Constitution and laws, and having thus chosen our cause without guile, and with pure purpose, let us renew our trust in God and go forward without fear and with manly hearts.

*Courage, brother! do not stumble,
Though thy path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble;
Trust in God and do the right.
Let the road be rough and dreary
And its end far out of sight,
Foot it bravely; strong or weary,
Trust in God and do the right.*

—Norman MacLeod.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 26

I will commit thy government into his hand. Isaiah 22 : 21.

I Must Save This Government.

(To a friend in Louisiana, July 26, 1862.)

I am a patient man—always willing to forgive on the Christian terms of repentance, and also to give ample time for repentance. Still I must save this Government, if possible. What I cannot do, of course, I will not do; but it may be well understood, once for all, that I shall not surrender this game leaving any available card unplayed.

*He hears the added strain it bears
For all who bravely fought,
For him who in the silence wears
The scars the battle brought—
Who wears them with a hero's might
And honors still the hour
That won a nation's priceless right,
And proved a nation's doer.*

*He hears it when it brings the name
That won a martyr's crown,
Our glorious chief, whose stainless fame
His country's best renown!
It brings the matchless words he said,
Standing above their sod,
In hour whose burning import led
A people nearer God.*

—Mary M. Adams.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 27

Honour widows that are widows indeed. I. Timothy 5:3.

The Dispensing of Patronage.

(To the Postmaster-General, July 27, 1863.)

Yesterday little endorsements of mine went to you in two cases of postmasterships, sought for widows whose husbands have fallen in the battles of this war. These cases, occurring on the same day, brought me to reflect more attentively than what I had before done as to what is fairly due from us here in the dispensing of patronage toward the men who by fighting our battles, bear the chief burden of saving our country. My conclusion is that, other claims and qualifications being equal, they have the right, and this is especially applicable to the disabled soldier and the deceased soldier's family.

*Cold now are firesides with love once aglow,
Cold now are brave hearts that for us nobly fought!
Loved ones they left, 't is our task now to cheer,
Help us the helpless in sorrow who bow,
Comfort we bring where war misery brought.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 28

Why stand ye here all the day idle? Matthew 20:6.

Why Stand Passive?

(From a letter written to Mr. Bullitt of New Orleans, July 28, 1862.)

The copy of a letter addressed to yourself by Mr. Thomas J. Durant, has been shown me. The writer appears to be an able, a dispassionate, and an entirely sincere man. The first part of the letter is devoted to an effort to show that the secession ordinance of Louisiana was adopted against the will of a majority of the people. This is probably true, and in that fact may be found some instruction. Why did they allow the ordinance to go into effect? Why did they not exert themselves? Why stand passive and allow themselves to be trodden down by a minority? Why did they not hold popular meetings, and have a convention of their own to express and enforce the true sentiments of the State? If pre-organization was against them, then why not do this now, that the United States army is present to protect them? The paralyzer—the dead palsy—of the Government in the whole struggle is, that this class of men will do nothing for the Government, nothing for themselves, except demanding that the Government shall not strike its enemies, lest they be struck by accident.

*Do not, then, stand idly waiting
For some greater work to do;
Fortune is a lazy goddess,
She will never come to you.
Go and toil in any vineyard;
Do not fear to do or dare;
If you want a field of labor,
You can find it anywhere.*

—Mrs. Ellen H. Gates.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 29

Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near: let them come up. Joel 3:9.

Deadhead Passengers.

(From a letter to Mr. Bullitt of New Orleans, July 28, 1862. Continued from preceding page.)

If there were a class of men who, having no choice of sides in the contest, were anxious only to have quiet and comfort for themselves while it rages, and to fall in with the victorious side at the end of it, without loss to themselves, their advice as to the mode of conducting the contest would be precisely such as his. He speaks of no duty, apparently thinks of none resting upon Union men. He even thinks it injurious to the Union cause that they should be restrained in trade and passage, without taking sides. They are to touch neither a sail nor a pump—live merely passengers ("deadheads" at that), to be carried snug and dry throughout the storm and safely landed right side up. Nay, more—even a mutineer is to go untouched, lest these sacred passengers receive an accidental wound. Of course, the rebellion will never be suppressed in Louisiana if the professed Union men there will neither help to do it nor permit the Government to do it without their help.

*Up the hillside, down the glen,
Rouse the sleeping citizen:
Summons out the might of men.*

*Perish party—perish clan;
Strike together while you can
Like the strong arm of one man.*

—Whittier.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 30

Laying aside all malice. I. Peter 2 : 1.

I Shall Do Nothing in Malice.

(From a letter to Mr. Bullitt of New Orleans, July 28, 1862. Continued from preceding page.)

What would you do in my position? Would you drop the war where it is, or would you prosecute it in future with elder-stock squirts, charged with rosewater? Would you deal lighter blows, rather than heavier ones? Would you give up the contest, leaving every available means unapplied? I am in no boastful mood. I shall not do more than I can, but I shall do all I can to save the Government, which is my sworn duty as well as my personal inclination. I shall do nothing in malice. What I deal with is too vast for malicious dealing.

*I never see a wounded enemy,
Or hear of foe slain on the battle-field,
But I think me of his pleasant home,
And how his mother and his sisters watch
For one who never more returns; poor souls!
I've often wept to think how they must weep.*

—Mrs. Hale.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

JULY 31

Let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. *Philippians*
3: 16.

The Law of Nations.

(Order issued to the entire army, July 30, 1863.)

It is the duty of every government to give protection to its citizens, of whatever class, color, or condition, and especially to those who are duly organized as soldiers in the public service. The law of nations and the usages and customs of war, as carried on by civilized powers, permit no distinction as to color in the treatment of prisoners of war as public enemies. To sell or enslave any captured person, on account of his color, and for no offense against the laws of war, is a relapse into barbarism and a crime against the civilization of the age. The Government of the United States will give the same protection to all its soldiers; and if the enemy shall sell or enslave any one because of his color, the offense shall be punished by retaliation upon the enemy's prisoners in our possessions.

*But let our tribute reach the height
The larger manhood saw;
That broad humanity whose light
Was Thy diviner law;
That law whose good is absolute,
Whose mandate, strong and pure,
From every ill can good transmute,
And make its change secure.*

—*Mary M. Adams.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 1

Now I beseech you . . . that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me. Romans 15 : 30.

Prayers of the Pious and the Good.

(Reply to Rev. Dr. Pohlman and others of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, August, 1864.)

I welcome here the representatives of the Evangelical Lutherans of the United States. I accept with gratitude their assurances of the sympathy and support of that enlightened, influential, and loyal class of my fellow-citizens in an important crisis, which involves, in my judgment, not only the civil and religious liberties of our own dear land, but in a large degree the civil and religious liberties of mankind in many countries and through many ages. You well know, gentlemen, and the whole world knows how reluctantly I accepted this issue of battle forced upon me, on my advent to this place, by the internal enemies of our country. . . . You all may recollect that in taking up the sword thus forced into our hands, this Government appealed to the prayers of the pious and the good, and declared that it placed its whole dependence upon the favor of God. I now humbly and reverently, 'n your presence, reiterate the acknowledgement of that dependence, not doubting that if it shall please the Divine Being who determines the destinies of nations, that this shall remain a united people, they will, humbly seeking the Divine guidance, make their prolonged national existence a source of new benefits to themselves and their successors, and to all classes and conditions of mankind.

*We tell thy doom without a sigh,
For thou art Freedom's now, and Fame's—
One of the few immortal names
That were not born to die.*

—Halleck.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 2

And men were scorched with great heat, . . . and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores. Revelation 16:9, 11.

Got to Sit on the Blister.

(To a private secretary of one of the cabinet ministers, who presented a discouraging account of the political situation in August, 1864.)

Well, I cannot run the political machine; I have enough on my hands without *that*. It is the *people's* business—the election is in their hands. If they turn their backs to the fire and get scorched in the rear, they'll find they have got to sit on the blister.

(At another time, referring to the probability of his renomination.)

If the people think I have managed their "case" for them well enough to trust me to carry it up to the next term, I am sure I shall be glad to take it.

*O rough, strong soul, your noble self-possession
Is unforgotten. Still your work remains.
You freed from bondage and from vile oppression
A race in clanking chains.*

—Eugene J. Hall.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 3

Great men are not always wise: . . . I also will show mine opinion.
Job. 32:9, 10.

Assumed Historical Facts.

(From speech at Springfield, Illinois, June 26, 1857.)

I have said, in substance, that the Dred Scott decision was, in part, based on assumed historical facts which were not really true, and I ought not to leave the subject without giving some reasons for saying this. I therefore give an instance or two, which I think fully sustain me. Chief Justice Taney, in delivering the opinion of the majority of the Court, insists at great length that negroes were no part of the people who made, or for whom was made the Declaration of Independence, or the Constitution of the United States. On the contrary, Judge Curtis, in his dissenting opinion, shows that in five of the then thirteen States, to wit, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and North Carolina, free negroes were voters, and, in proportion to their numbers, had the same part in making the Constitution that the white people had.

*This is a great fault in a chronologer,
To turn parasite; an absolute historian
Should be in fear of none; neither should he
Write anything more than truth for friendship
Or else for hate; but keep himself equal
And constant in all his discourses.*

—Lingua.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 4

The rich and poor meet together: the Lord is the maker of them all. Proverbs 22:2.

All Better and Happier Together.

(Written July 1, 1854.)

Most governments have been based, practically, on the denial of the equal rights of men. Ours began by affirming those rights. They said, "Some men are too ignorant and vicious to share in government." "Possibly so," said we, "and by your system you would always keep them ignorant and vicious. We propose to give all a chance, and we expect the weaker to grow stronger, the ignorant wiser, and all better and happier together." We made the experiment, and the fruit is before us. Look at it, and think of it! Look at it in its aggregate grandeur, extent of country, and numbers of population.

*God of the Free! our Nation bless
In its strong manhood as its birth,
And make its life a star of hope
For all the struggling of the earth.*

*Then shout beside thine Oak, O North!
O South, wave answer with thy Palm!
And in our Union's heritage
Together sing the Nation's psalm!*

—W. R. Wallace.

AUGUST 5

Prepare ye the way of the people: . . . lift up a standard for the people. Isalah 62:10.

Better Prepared for the New Relations.

(From letter to General Banks, August 5, 1863.)

While I very well know what I would be glad for Louisiana to do, it is quite a different thing for me to assume direction of the matter. I would be glad for her to make a new Constitution, recognizing the Emancipation Proclamation, and adopting emancipation in those parts of the State to which the Proclamation does not apply. And while she is at it, I think it would not be objectionable for her to adopt some practical system by which the two races could gradually live themselves out of their old relations to each other, and both come out better prepared for the new. Education for young blacks should be included in the plan. After all, the power of element of "contact" may be sufficient for this probationary period, and by its simplicity and flexibility may be better. As an anti-slavery man, I have a motive to desire emancipation which pro-slavery men do not have; but even they have strong enough reason to thus place themselves again under the shield of the Union, and to thus perpetually pledge against the recurrence of the scenes through which we are now passing.

*Lord, bid war's trumpet cease;
Fold the whole earth in peace
Under thy wings;
Make all thy nations one,
All hearts beneath thy sun,
Till thou shalt reign alone,
Great King of kings.*

—O. W. Holmes.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 6

Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? . . . that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? Numbers 11:11.

My Solicitude for This Great Country.

(In reply. August, 1864, to Ex-Governor Randall, of Wisconsin, who suggested that he seek seclusion and play hermit for invigoration.)

Aye, two or three weeks would do me good, but I cannot fly from my thoughts; my solicitude for this great country follows me wherever I go. I don't think it is personal vanity or ambition, though I am not free from these infirmities, but I cannot but feel that the weal or woe of this great Nation will be decided in November. There is no program offered by any wing of the Democratic party but that must result in the permanent destruction of the Union.

*Through years of care, to rest and joy a stranger,
You saw complete the work you had begun;
Thoughtless of threats, nor heeding death or danger,
You toiled till all was done.*

—Eugene J. Hall.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 7

Showing all good fidelity. Titus 2 : 10.

Keep my faith with friend and foe.

(To Ex-Governor Randall and others, in August, 1864.
Continued from preceding page.)

There have been men base enough to propose to me to return to slavery the black warriors of Port Hudson and Olustree, and thus win the respect of the masters they fought. Should I do so, I should deserve to be damned in time and eternity. Come what will, I will keep my faith with friend and foe. My enemies pretend that I am now carrying on this war for the sole purpose of abolition. So long as I am President, it shall be carried on for the sole purpose of restoring the Union; but no human power can subdue this rebellion without the use of the emancipation policy, and every other policy calculates to weaken the moral and physical forces of the rebellion.

*Let come what will, I mean to bear it out,
And either live with glorious victory
Or die with fame, renown'd for chivalry:
He is not worthy of the honeycomb,
That shuns the hive because the bees have stings.*

—Shakespeare.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 8

Let all mine enemies be ashamed . . . let them return. Psalms 6:10.

Fraternal Feeling Growing.

(To Ex-Governor Randall and others, in August, 1864.
Continued from preceding page.)

Freedom has given us two hundred thousand men raised on Southern soil. It will give us more yet. Just so much it has subtracted from the enemy, and instead of alienating the South, there are now evidences of a fraternal feeling growing up between our men and the rank and file of the rebel soldiers. Let my enemies prove to the country that the destruction of slavery is not necessary to a restoration of the Union. I will abide the issue.

*Beyond the present sin and shame,
Wrong's bitter, cruel, scorching blight,
We see the end at which we aim—
The blessed kingdom of the Right.
What though its coming long delay,
With haughty foes it still must cope;
It gives us that for which to pray—
A field for toil and faith and hope.*
—W. DeWitt Hyde.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 9

Every day wrest my words. Psalms 56 : 5.

Slavery in Slave States.

(From a speech at Chicago, July 10, 1858.)

I have said a hundred times, and I have no inclination to take it back, that I believe there is no right, and ought to be no inclination, in the people of the free States to enter into the slave States and interfere with the question of slavery at all. I have said that always; Judge Douglas has heard me say it—if not quite a hundred times, at least as good as a hundred times; and when it is said that I am in favor of interfering with slavery where it exists, I know it is unwarranted by anything I have ever *intended*, and, as I believe, by anything I have ever *said*. If by any means I have ever used language which could fairly be so construed (as, however, I believe I never have), I now correct it. So much, then, for the inference that Judge Douglas draws, that I am in favor of setting the sections at war with one another.

*He finds his fellow guilty of a skin
Not color'd like his own, and having pow'r
T' enforce the wrong, for such a worthy cause
Dooms and devotes him as his lawful prey.*

—Cowper.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 10

What is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul? Job 27:8.

No Hypocritical Pretense.

(From a speech at Chicago, July 10, 1858. Continued from preceding page.)

I do not claim, gentlemen, to be unselfish; I do not pretend that I would not like to go to the United States Senate; I make no such hypocritical pretense, but I do say to you that in this mighty issue it is nothing to you—nothing to the mass of the people of the Nation, whether or not Judge Douglas or myself shall ever be heard of after this night; it may be a trifle to either of us, but in connection with this mighty question, upon which hang the destinies of the Nation, perhaps, it is absolutely nothing; but where will you be placed if you reindorse Judge Douglas? . . . Plainly, you stand ready saddled, bridled, and harnessed, and waiting to be driven over to the slavery extension camp of the Nation—just ready to be driven over, tied together in a lot, to be driven over, every man with a rope around his neck, that halter being held by Judge Douglas.

*Vain these dreams, and vain these hopes;
And yet 't is these give birth
To each high purpose, generous deed,
That sanctifies our earth.
He who hath highest aims in view
Must dream at first what he will do.*

—Miss Landon.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 11

This I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. Colossians 2:4.

Counterfeit Logic.

(From a speech in Chicago, July 10, 1858. Continued from preceding page.)

We were often—more than once at least— in the course of Judge Douglas's speech last night, reminded that this Government was made for white men—that he believed it was made for white men. Well, that is putting it into a shape in which no one wants to deny it; but the Judge then goes into his passion for drawing inferences which are not warranted. I protest now, and forever, against that counterfeit logic which presumes that because I did not want a negro woman for a slave, I do necessarily want her for a wife. My understanding is that I need not have her for either, but as God made us separate, we can leave one another alone, and do one another good thereby. There are white men enough to marry all the white women, and enough black men to marry all the black women, and in God's name let them be so married. The Judge regales us with the terrible enormities that take place by the mixtures of races; that the inferior race bears the superior down. Why, Judge, if we do not let them get together in the Territories they won't mix there.

*Truth, crushed to earth, shall rise again,
The eternal years of God are hers;
But Error, wounded, writhes in pain
And dies amid her worshippers.*

—Bryant.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 12

They are written for our admonition. I. Corinthians 10:11.

An Admonition of Our Lord.

(From a speech in Chicago, July 10, 1858. Continued from preceding page.)

My friend has said to me that I am a poor hand to quote Scripture. I will try it again, however. It is said in one of the admonitions of our Lord, "As your Father in heaven is perfect, be ye also perfect." The Savior, I suppose, did not expect that any human creature could be perfect as the Father in heaven, but he said, "As your Father in heaven is perfect, be ye also perfect." He set that up as a standard, and he who did most toward reaching that standard attained the highest degree of moral perfection. So I say in relation to the principle that all men are created equal, let it be as nearly reached as we can. If we cannot give freedom to every creature, let us do nothing that will impose slavery upon any other creature.

*Whoever, with an earnest soul,
Strives for some end from this low world afar,
Still upward travels though he miss the goal,
And strays—but towards a star!*

—Butcher.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 13

If a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? Matthew 18:12.

Parable of the Lost Sheep.

(From speech at Springfield, Illinois, July 17, 1858.)

He says I have a proneness for quoting Scripture. If I should do so now, it occurs that perhaps he places himself somewhat upon the ground of the parable of the lost sheep which went astray upon the mountains, and when the owner of the hundred sheep found the one that was lost, and threw it upon his shoulders and came home rejoicing, it was said that there was more rejoicing over the one sheep that was lost and had been found, than over the ninety and nine in the fold. The application is made by the Savior in this parable thus: "Verily, I say unto you, there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, than over ninety and nine just persons that need no repentance." And now, if the Judge claims the benefit of this parable, let him repent; let him not come up here and say, "I am the only just person, and you are the ninety-nine sinners!" Repentance before forgiveness is a provision of the Christian system, and on that condition alone will the Republicans grant his forgiveness.

*There were ninety and nine that safely lay
In the shelter of the fold.
But one was out on the hills away,
Far off from the gates of gold—
Away on the mountains wild and bare,
Away from the tender shepherd's care.*

—E. C. Clephane.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 14

Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. I. Samuel 16:7.

The Inside of a Gentleman.

(From a speech at Springfield, Illinois, July 17, 1858.
Continued from preceding page.)

I shall make the quotation now, with some comments upon it, as I have already said, in order that the Judge shall be left entirely without excuse for misrepresenting me. I do so now, as I hope, for the last time. I do this in great caution, in order that if he repeats his misrepresentation, it shall be plain to all that he does so wilfully. If, after all, he still persists, I shall be compelled to reconstruct the course I have marked out for myself, and draw upon such humble resources as I have for a new course better suited to the real exigencies of the case. I set out, in this campaign, with the intention of conducting it strictly as a gentleman, in substance at least, if not in the outside polish. The latter I shall never be, but that which constitutes the inside of a gentleman I hope I understand, and am not less inclined to practice than others. It was my purpose and expectation that this canvass would be conducted upon principle and with fairness on both sides, and it shall not be my fault if this purpose and expectation shall be given up.

*Lincoln, your manhood shall survive forever,
Shedding a fadeless halo 'round your name,
Urging men on, with wise and strong endeavor,
To bright and honest fame!*

—Eugene J. Hall.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 15

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jeremiah 33: 3.

May God Superintend the Solution.

(From a letter to Honorable Robertson, Lexington, Kentucky, August 15, 1855.)

So far as peaceful, voluntary emancipation is concerned, the condition of the negro slave in America, scarcely less terrible to the contemplation of a free mind, is now as fixed and hopeless of change for the better as that of the lost souls of the finally impenitent. The Autocrat of all the Russians will resign his crown and proclaim his subjects free republicans sooner than will our American masters voluntarily give up their slaves. Our political problem now is, "Can we, as a Nation, continue together permanently—forever—half slave and half free?" The problem is too mighty for me. May God in his mercy superintend the solution.

*God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.*

*Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain.*

—Cowper.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 16

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Isaiah 2:4.

More Colors than One.

(Extract from letter written August 16, 1863, to Honorable James C. Conkling, of Illinois.)

The signs look better. The Father of Waters again goes unvexed to the sea. Thanks to the great Northwest for it; nor yet wholly to them. Three hundred miles up they met New England, Empire, Keystone, and Jersey hewing their way right and left. The sunny South, too, in more colors than one, also lent a helping hand. On the spot their part of the history was jotted down in black and white. The job was a great national one, and let none be slighted who bore an honorable part in it. . . . Nor must Uncle Sam's web feet be forgotten. At all the watery margins they have been present, not only on the deep sea, the broad bay, and the rapid river, but also up the narrow muddy bayou, and wherever the ground was a little damp they have been and made their tracks. Thanks to all.

*There 's a good time coming, boys,
A good time coming:
We may not live to see the day,
But earth shall glisten in the ray
Of the good time coming.
Cannon balls may aid the truth,
But thought 's a weapon stronger;
We 'll win our battle by its aid;
Wait a little longer.*

—Charles Mackay.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 17

Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart : for consider how great things he hath done for you. I. Samuel 12 : 24.

The Rightful Result.

(Extract from letter, written August 16, 1863, to Honorable James C. Conkling, of Illinois. Continued from preceding page.)

Peace does not appear so distant as it did. I hope it will come soon, and come to stay, and so come as to be worth the keeping in all future time. It will then have been proved that among free men there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet, and that they who take such appeal are sure to lose their case and pay the cost. And there will be some black men who can remember that with silent tongue, and clenched teeth, and steady eye, and well-poised bayonet they have helped mankind on to this great consummation; while I fear there will be some white men unable to forget that with malignant and deceitful speech they have striven to hinder it. Still, let us not be over sanguine of a speedy final triumph. Let us be quite sober. Let us diligently apply the means, never doubting that a just God, in his own good time, will give us the rightful result.

*We bless thee for the growing light,
The advancing thought, the widening view,
The larger freedom, clearer sight,
Which from the old unfolds the new.
With wider view comes loftier goal;
With fuller light more good to see;
With freedom, fuller self-control;
With knowledge, deeper reverence be.*
—Samuel Longfellow.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 18

Leave it for an inheritance for your children after you. I. Chronicles 28:8.

More Involved than Realized.

(Extract from speech to a regiment of Ohio hundred-day men, who visited the President August 18, 1864.)

I wish it to be more generally understood what the country is now engaged in. We have, as all will agree, a free government, where every man has a right to be equal with every other man. In this great struggle this form of government and every form of human rights are endangered if our enemies succeed. There is more involved in this contest than is realized by every one. There is involved in this struggle the question whether your children and my children shall enjoy the privileges we have enjoyed. I say this in order to impress upon you, if you are not already so impressed, that no small matter should divert us from our great purpose. There may be some inequalities in the practical application of our system. It is fair that each man shall pay taxes in exact proportion to the value of his property; but if we should wait, before collecting a tax, to adjust the taxes upon each man in exact proportion with every other man, we should never collect any tax at all. There may be mistakes made sometimes; things may be done wrong while all the officers of the Government do all they can to prevent mistakes.

*O God of battles, let thy might
Protect our armies in the fight—
Till they shall win the victory
And set the hapless bondman free:—*

*Till, guided by thy glorious hand,
Those armies reunite the land,
And North and South alike shall raise
To God their peaceful hymns of praise.
—Park Benjamin.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 19

An horse is a vain thing for safety ; neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Psalms 33 : 17.

The Britchen Broke.

(In reply to Douglas in the campaign of 1852, who spoke of confidence in Providence.)

Let us stand by our candidate (General Scott) as faithfully as he has always stood by our country, and I much doubt if we do not perceive a slight abatement of Judge Douglas's confidence in Providence as well as the people. I suspect that confidence is not more firmly fixed with the Judge than it was with the old woman whose horse ran away with her in a buggy. She said she "trusted in Providence till the britchen broke," and then she "didn't know what on airth to do." The chance is, the Judge will see the britchen broke, and then he can, at his leisure, bewail the fate of Locofocism as the victim of misplaced confidence.

*Better to weave in the web of life
A bright and golden filling,
And to do God's will with a ready heart
And hands that are swift and willing,
Than to snap the delicate thread
Of a curious life asunder,
And then Heaven blame for the tangled ends,
And sit and grieve and wonder.*

—Charles Mackay.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 20

Let God be true, but every man a liar. Romans 3 : 4.

Authority of a Higher Character.

(From first joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Ottawa, Illinois, August 21, 1858.)

He has read from my speech in Springfield, in which I say, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Does the Judge say it *can* stand? I don't know whether he does or not. The Judge does not seem to be attending to me just now, but I would like to know if it is his opinion that a house divided against itself *can stand*. If he does, then there is a question of veracity, not between him and me, but between the Judge and an authority of a somewhat higher character. Now, my friends, I ask your attention to this matter for the purpose of saying something seriously. I know that the Judge may readily enough agree with me that the maxim which was put forth by the Savior is true, but he may allege that I misapply it; and the Judge has a right to urge that, in my application, I do misapply it, and then I have a right to show that I do *not* misapply it. When he undertakes to say that because I think this Nation, so far as the question of slavery is concerned, will all become one thing or all the other, I am in favor of bringing about a dead uniformity in the various States, in all their institutions, he argues erroneously.

*Make us eternal truths receive,
And practice all that we believe;
Give us thyself, that we may see
The Father and the Son by thee.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 21

Neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know. I. Thessalonians 2:5.

A Compliment.

(From first joint debate with Mr. Douglas at Ottawa, Illinois, August 21, 1858, referring to his "Divided-House" speech. Continued from preceding page.)

When my friend, Judge Douglas, came to Chicago, on the 9th of July, this speech having been delivered on the 16th of June, he made an harangue there, in which he took hold of this speech of mine, showing that he had carefully read it; and while he paid no attention to *this* matter at all, but complimented me as being a "kind, amiable, and intelligent gentleman," notwithstanding I had said this, he goes on and eliminates or draws out from my speech this tendency of mine to set the States at war with one another, to make all the institutions uniform, and set the niggers and white people to marrying together. Then, as the Judge had complimented me with these pleasant titles (I must confess my weakness), I was a little "taken," for it came from a great man. I was not very much accustomed to flattery, and it came the sweeter to me. I was like the Hoosier with the gingerbread, when he said he reckoned he loved it better than any other man, and got less of it. As the Judge has so flattered me, I could not make up my mind that he meant to deal unfairly with me, so I went to work to show him that he misunderstood the whole scope of my speech, and that I really never intended to set the people at war with one another.

*Treachery often lurks
In compliments. You have sent so many posts
Of undertakings, they outride performance,
And make me think your fair pretences aim
At some intended ill, which my prevention
Must strive to avert.*

—Nabb.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 23

For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged. Proverbs 28: 2.

Save the Union.

(Extract from a reply to an editorial in the New York Tribune by Horace Greeley, August 22, 1862.)

I would save the Union. I would save it the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the National authority can be restored, the nearer the Union will be "the Union as it was." If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time *save* slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time *destroy* slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object in this struggle *is* to save the Union, and *not* either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing *any* slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would do that. What I do about slavery and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save this Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do *not* believe it would help to save the Union. I shall do *less* whenever I shall believe what I am doing hurts the cause, and I shall do *more* whenever I shall believe doing more will help the cause.

*To the hero, when his sword
Has won the battle for the free,
Death's voice sounds like a prophet's word:
And in its hollow tones are heard
The thanks of millions yet to be.*

—Halleck

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 23

Thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. Proverbs 27 : 1.

Co-operate with the President-Elect.

(From a memorandum dated August 23, 1864.)

This morning, as for some days past, it seems exceedingly probable that this administration will not be reelected. Then it will be my duty to so coöperate with the President-elect as to save the Union between the election and the inauguration, as he will have secured his election on such ground that he cannot possibly save it afterwards.

*Safe in Fame's gallery through all the years,
Our dearest picture hangs, your steadfast face,
Whose eyes hold all the pathos of the race
Redeemed by you from servitude's sad tears.*

*And how redeemed? With agony of grief;
With ceaseless labor in war's lurid light;
With such deep anguish in each lonely night,
Your soul sweat very blood ere came relief.*

*What crown have you who bore that cross below?
O faithful one, what is your life above?
Is there a higher gift in God's pure love
Than to have lived on earth as Man of Woe?*

—Mary Livingston Burdick.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 24

A man after mine own heart. Acts 13 : 22.

Henry Clay.

(From first joint debate with Mr. Douglas at Ottawa, Illinois, August 21, 1858.)

Henry Clay, my beau ideal of a statesman, the man for whom I fought all my humble life—Henry Clay once said of a class of men who would repress all tendencies to liberty and ultimate emancipation, that they must, if they would do this, go back to the era of our Independence and muzzle the cannon which thunders its annual joyous return; they must blow out the moral lights around us; they must penetrate the human soul and eradicate there the love of liberty; and then, and not till then, could they perpetuate slavery in this country! To my thinking, Judge Douglas is, by his example and vast influence, doing that very thing in this community, when he says that the negro has nothing in the Declaration of Independence. Henry Clay plainly understood the contrary.

*We tell thy doom without a sigh,
For thou art Freedom's now, and Fame's;
One of the few, th' immortal names,
That were not born to die.*

—Halleck.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 25

Her sun is gone down while it was yet day. Jeremiah 15 : 9.

Ann Rutledge.

(Ann Rutledge, to whom Mr. Lincoln was engaged, died August 25, 1835. Said to a friend one stormy night shortly after her death.)

The thought of the snow and the rain on her grave fills me with indescribable grief.

(To an old friend, after his election to the Presidency, who asked if it was true that he loved and courted Ann Rutledge.)

It is true—true; indeed I did. I have loved the name of Rutledge to this day. It was my first. I loved the woman dearly. She was a handsome girl; would have made a good, loving wife; was natural and quite intellectual, though not highly educated. I did honestly and truly love the girl, and think often of her now.

*And then I think of one who in
Her youthful beauty died,
The fair, meek blossom that grew up
And faded by my side;
In the cold, moist earth we laid her,
When the forest cast the leaf,
And we wept that one so lovely
Should have a life so brief:
Yet not unmeet it was that one,
Like that young friend of ours,
So gentle and so beautiful,
Should perish with the flowers.*

—Bryant.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 26

Let us lay aside every weight. Hebrews 12:1.

Waive Minor Differences.

(From a speech in second joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Freeport, Illinois, August 27, 1858.)

For my part, I do hope that all of us, entertaining a common sentiment in opposition to what appears to us a design to nationalize and perpetuate slavery, will waive minor differences on questions which either belong to the dead past or the distant future, and all pull together in this struggle. What are your sentiments? If it be true that on the ground which I occupy—ground which I occupy as frankly and boldly as Judge Douglas does his—my views, though partly coinciding with yours, are not as perfectly in accordance with your feelings as his are, I do say to you in all candor, go for him and not for me. I hope to deal in all things fairly with Judge Douglas, and with the people of the State, in this contest. And if I should never be elected to any office, I trust I may go down with no stain of falsehood upon my reputation.

*Some positive, persisting fops we know
Who, if once wrong, will need be always so;
But you with pleasure own your errors past,
And make each day a critique on the last.*

—Pope.

AUGUST 27

Is there not a cause? I. Samuel 17: 29.

Like Causes Produce Like Effects.

(From a speech in third joint debate with Mr. Douglas at Jonesboro, Illinois, September 15, 1858.)

Have we ever had any quarrels over the fact they have laws in Louisiana designed to regulate the commerce that springs from the production of sugar? or because we have a different class relative to the production of fine flour in this State? Have they produced any differences? Not at all. They are the very cements of this Union. They don't make the house a house divided against itself. They are the props that hold up the house and sustain the Union. But has it been so with the element of slavery? Have we not always had quarrels and difficulties over it? And when will we cease to have quarrels over it? Like causes produce like effects. It is worth while to observe that we have generally had comparative peace upon the slavery question, and that there has been no cause for alarm until it was excited by the effort to spread it into new territory. Whenever it has been limited to its present bounds, and there has been no effort to spread it, there has been peace.

*O Opportunity! thy guilt is great:
'T is thou that execut'st the traitor's treason;
Thou sett'st the wolf where he the lamb may get;
Whoever plots the sin, thou point'st the scason;
'T is thou that spurn'st at right, at law, at reason.*
—Shakespeare.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 28

Thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us. Daniel 9 : 16.

Your Race Suffering a Great Wrong.

(Extract from an address to free colored people, on
Colonization, August 14, 1862.)

Perhaps you have long been free, or all your lives. Your race is suffering, in my judgment, the greatest wrong inflicted on any people. But even when you cease to be slaves, you are yet far removed from being placed on an equality with the white race. You are cut off from many of the advantages which the other race enjoys. The aspiration of men is to enjoy equality with the best when free, but on this broad continent not a single man of your race is made the equal of a single man of ours. Go where you are treated the best, and the ban is still upon you. I do not propose to discuss this, but to present it as a fact with which we have to deal. I cannot alter it if I would. . . . Owing to the existence of the two races on this continent, I need not recount to you the effects upon white men growing out of the institution of slavery. I believe in its general evil effects upon the white race. See our present condition—the country engaged in war; our white men cutting each other's throats; none knowing how far it will extend—and then consider what we know to be the truth. But for your race among us there could be no war.

*In this world of sin and sorrow
There are burdens we must bear,
There are conflicts and sore trials
That we must daily share.
There's a tempter to be baffled,
There are wrongs to be made right;
There are stubborn hearts to conquer,
. . . There are foes to be put to flight.*

—A. B. Condo.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 29

Arise, and let us go again to our own people, and to the land of our nativity. Jeremiah 46:16.

Better to be Separated.

(Extract from an address to free colored people on Colonization, August 14, 1862. Continued from preceding page.)

It is better for us both, therefore, to be separated. I know that there are free men among you who, even if they could better their condition, are not as much inclined to go out of the country as those who, being slaves, could obtain their freedom on this condition. . . . But you ought to do something to help those who are not so fortunate as yourselves. There is an unwillingness on the part of our people, harsh as it may be, for you free colored people to remain with us. Now, if you could give a start to the white people you would open a wide door for many to be made free. If we deal with those who are not free at the beginning, and whose intellects are clouded by slavery, we have very poor material to start with. If intelligent colored men, such as are before me, would move in this matter, much might be accomplished. It is exceedingly important that we have men at the beginning capable of thinking as white men, and not those who have been systematically oppressed. There is much to encourage—YOU. For the sake of your race you should sacrifice something of your present comfort for the purpose of being as grand in that respect as the white people.

*Think not too meanly of thy low estate;
Thou hast a choice; to choose is to create!
Remember whose the sacred lips that tell,
Angels approve thee when thy choice is well;
Use well the freedom which thy Master gave.*

—Holmes.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 30

They have taken crafty counsel against thy people. Psalms 83:3.

Attachment Toward Our Race.

(Extract from address to free colored people on Colonization, August 14, 1862. Continued from preceding page.)

The colony of Liberia has been in existence a long time. In a certain sense it is a success. The old president of Liberia, Roberts, has just been with me; the first time I ever saw him. He says they have within the bounds of that colony between three and four hundred thousand people, or more than in some of our old States, such as Rhode Island or Delaware, or in some of our newer States, and less than in some of our larger ones. They are not all American colonists or their descendants. Something less than 12,000 have been sent thither from this country. . . . I do not know how much attachment you may have toward our race. It does not strike me that you have the greatest reason to love them; but still you are attached to them, at all events. The place I am thinking about having for a colony is in Central America. It is nearer to us than Liberia. Unlike Liberia, it is a great line of travel, it is a highway. The country is a very excellent one for any people, and with great natural resources and advantages, and especially because of the similarity of climate with your native soil, thus being suited to your physical condition.

*Abused mortals! did you know
Where joy, heart's-ease, and comforts grow?
You 'd scorn proud towers,
And seek them in these bowers,
Where winds sometimes our words may shake,
But blustering care could never tempests make,
Nor murmurs e'er come nigh us
Saving of fountains that glide by us.*

—Sir W. Raleigh.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

AUGUST 31

That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together.
Isalah 41:20.

Subjects of Great Importance.

(Extract from address to free colored people on Colonization, August 14, 1862. Continued from preceding page.)

The practical thing I want to ascertain is, whether I can get a number of able-bodied men, with their wives and children, who are willing to go, when I present evidence, encouragement, and protection. Could I get a hundred tolerably intelligent men, with their wives and children, and able to "cut their own fodder," so to speak? Can I get fifty? If I could find twenty-five able-bodied men, with a mixture of women and children—good things in the family relation, I think—I could make a successful commencement. I want you to let me know whether it can be done or not. This is the practical part of my wish to see you. These are subjects of very great importance, worthy of a month's study, of a speech delivered in an hour. I ask you, then, to consider seriously, not pertaining to yourselves merely, nor for your race and ours for the present time, but as one of the things, if successfully managed, for the good of mankind, not confined to the present generation, but as

"From age to age descends the lay,
To millions yet to be,
Till far its echoes roll away
Into eternity."

*Brave thoughts of noble deeds, and glory won
Like angels, beckon ye to venture on.*

—Frances Kemble Butler.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 1

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Psalms 60:4.

The Union and the Old Flag.

(Extract from speech to soldiers of the 148th Ohio Regiment, August 31, 1864.)

I understand that it has been your honorable privilege to stand for a brief period in the defense of your country, and that now you are on your way to your homes. I congratulate you, and those who are waiting to bid you welcome home from the war, and permit me in the name of the people to thank you for the part you have taken in this struggle for the life of the Nation. Whenever I appear before a body of soldiers, I feel tempted to talk to them of the nature of the struggle in which we are engaged. I look upon it as an attempt on the one hand to overwhelm and destroy the National existence, while on our part we are striving to maintain the Government and institutions of our fathers, to enjoy them ourselves, and transmit them to our children and our children's children forever. . . . This Government must be preserved, in spite of the acts of any man or set of men. It is worthy of your every effort. Nowhere in the world is presented a government of so much liberty and equality. To the humblest and poorest amongst us are held out the highest privileges and positions. The present moment finds me at the White House, yet there is as good a chance for your children as there was for my father's. I admonish you not to be turned from your stern purpose of defending our beloved country and its free institutions by any arguments urged by ambitious and designing men, but stand fast to the Union and the old flag.

*Thus beneath the one broad banner,
Flag of the true, the brave, the free,
We will build anew the Union,
Fortress of our liberty.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 2

And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels. Malachi 3:17.

An Inestimable Jewel.

(To an Ohio Regiment, in September, 1864.)

It is not merely for the day, but for all time to come that we should perpetuate for our children's children that great and free Government which we have enjoyed all our lives. I beg you to remember this, not merely for my sake, but for yours. I happen, temporarily, to occupy this big White House. I am a living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father's child has. It is in order that each one of you may have, through this free Government which we have enjoyed, an open field and a fair chance for your industry, enterprise, and intelligence; that you may all have equal privileges in the race of life, with all its desirable human aspirations—it is for this that the struggle should be maintained, that we may not lose our birth rights, not only for one, but for two or three years, if necessary. The nation is worth fighting for to secure such an inestimable jewel.

*From germs like these have mighty statesmen sprung,
Of prudent counsel and persuasive tongue;
Unblenching minds, who ruled the willing throng,
Their well-braced nerves by early labor strung.*

—Mrs. Sigourney.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 3

O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the people. Psalms 105: 1.

Glorious Achievements,

(Call for Thanksgiving, issued September 3, 1864.)

The signal success that Divine Providence has recently vouchsafed to the operations of the United States army and navy in the harbor of Mobile, and the reduction of Forts Powell, Gaines, and Morgan, and the glorious achievements of the army under Major-General Sherman in the State of Georgia, resulting in the capture of the city of Atlanta, call for devout acknowledgements to the Supreme Being in whose hands are the destinies of nations. It is therefore requested that on next Sunday, in all places of public worship in the United States, thanksgiving be offered to Him for his mercy in preserving our National existence against the insurgent rebels who so long have been waging a cruel war against the Government of the United States for its overthrow, and also that prayers be made for the Divine protection to our brave soldiers and their gallant leaders in the field, who have so often and so gallantly periled their lives in battling with the enemy, and for blessings and comforts from the Father of mercies to the sick and wounded and prisoners, and to the orphans and widows of those who have fallen in the service of their country, and that he will continue to uphold the Government of the United States against all the efforts of public enemies and secret foes.

*Lord! while for all mankind we pray
Of every clime and coast,
Oh, hear us for our native land—
The land we love the most.
Untie us in the sacred love
Of knowledge, truth, and thee,
And let our hills and valleys shout
The songs of liberty.*

—J. R. Wreford.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 4

Every purpose of the Lord shall be performed. Jeremiah 51 : 29.

The Purposes of the Almighty.

(Letter written September 4, 1864, to Mrs. Eliza B. Gurney, wife of an eminent English minister of the Society of Friends.)

I have not forgotten, probably never shall forget the very impressive occasion when yourself and friends visited me on a Sabbath forenoon, two years ago; nor has your kind letter, written nearly a year later, ever been forgotten. In all it has been your purpose to strengthen my reliance upon God. I am much indebted to the good Christian people of the country for their constant prayers and consolations, and to no one of them more than to yourself. The purposes of the Almighty are perfect and must prevail, though we erring mortals may fail to accurately perceive them in advance. We hoped for a happy termination of this terrible war long before this, but God knows best and has ruled otherwise. We shall yet acknowledge his wisdom and our own errors therein. Meanwhile we must work earnestly in the best light he gives us, trusting that so working still conduces to the great end he ordains. Surely he intends some great good to follow this mighty convulsion, which no mortal could make and no mortal could stay. Your people, the Friends, have had and are having very great trials on principles and faith. Opposed to both war and oppression, they can only practically oppose oppression by war. In this hard dilemma some have chosen one horn and some the other. For those appealing to me on conscientious grounds, I have done and shall do the best I could and can, in my own conscience, under my oath to the law. That you believe this I doubt not, and, believing it, I shall still receive for our country and myself your earnest prayers to our Father in heaven.

*His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.*

—Cowper.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 5 (Labor Day)

The sleep of the labouring man is sweet, . . . but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep. Ecclesiastes 5:12.

Labor is the Superior of Capital.

(From his first annual message to Congress, December 3, 1861.)

Labor is prior to and independent of capital; capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration. Capital has its rights, which are as worthy of protection as any other rights; nor is it denied that there is, and probably always will be a relation between labor and capital producing mutual benefits.

*A song for the builders of beauty,
The rearers of temple and spire;
A song to the strong men of duty,
Who shape the world's future in fire.*

*Sing, sing to the women, the mothers,
The weavers of life and of fate;
The sisters who toil for the brothers,
And open to hope the white gate.*

*A song to the brain that devises,
And bend's Nature's will into law;
A song to the brain that suffices
Its purpose from many to draw.*

*Sing, sing, to the thinkers and hewers—
To brothers of brain and of brawn;
A song to the world's mighty doers
Who work for a hastening dawn.*

—Horace Spencer Fiske.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 6

Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures. Isaiah 2:7.

Message to the Miners.

(To Honorable Schuyler Colfax, on the fatal 14th of April, 1865, the day of the assassination. Mr. Colfax was about starting to the far-off western country.)

Mr. Colfax, I want you to take a message from me to the miners whom you visit. I have very large ideas of the mineral wealth of our Nation. I believe it practically inexhaustible. It abounds all over the Western country—from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, and its development has scarcely commenced. During the war, when we were adding a couple of millions of dollars every day to our National debt, I did not care about encouraging the increase in the volume of our precious metals. We had the country to save first. But now that the Rebellion is overthrown, and we know pretty nearly the amount of our National debt, the more gold and silver we mine makes the payment of that debt so much the easier. Now I am going to encourage that in every possible way. We shall have hundreds of thousands of disbanded soldiers, and many have feared that their return home in such great numbers might paralyze industry by furnishing suddenly a greater supply of labor than there will be a demand for. I am going to try to attract them to the hidden wealth of our mountain ranges, where there is room enough for all. . . . Tell the miners for me that I shall promote their interests to the utmost of my ability, because their prosperity is the prosperity of the Nation; and we shall prove, in a very few years, that we are indeed the treasury of the world.

*The mountain air is cool and fresh,
Unclouded skies bend o'er us,
Broad placers, rich in hidden gold,
Lie temptingly before us;
We ask no magic Midas' wand,
Nor wizard-rod divining,
The pickaxe, spade, and brazen hand
Are sorcerers in mining.*

—John Swift.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 7

It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. Acts 1:7.

It Will Occur in God's Own Good Time.

(Extract from speech in fourth joint debate with Mr. Douglas at Charleston, Illinois, September 18, 1858.)

I say, then, there is no way of putting an end to the slavery agitation amongst us but to put it back upon the basis where our fathers placed it, no way but to keep it out of our new Territories—to restrict it forever to the old States where it now exists. Then the public mind *will* rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction. That is one way of putting an end to the slavery agitation. The other way is for us to surrender and let Judge Douglas and his friends have their way and plant slavery all over the States—cease speaking of it as in any way a wrong—regard slavery as one of the common matters of property, and speak of negroes as we do of our horses and cattle. But while it drives on in its state of progress as it is now driving, and as it has driven for the last five years, I have ventured the opinion, and I say to-day that we will have no end to the slavery agitation until it takes one turn or the other. I do not mean that when it takes a turn toward ultimate extinction it will be in a day, nor in a year, nor in two years. I do not suppose that in the most peaceful way ultimate extinction would occur in less than a hundred years at least; but that it will occur in the best way for both races, in God's own good time, I have no doubt.

*For right is right, since God is God,
And right the day must win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin.*

—F. W. Faber.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 8

There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men. Ecclesiastes 6:1.

An Abstract Moral Question.

(Extract from speech in fifth joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Galesburg, Illinois, October 7, 1858.)

I have said that in their right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," as proclaimed in that old Declaration, the inferior races are our equals. And these declarations I have constantly made in reference to the abstract moral question, to contemplate and consider when we are legislating about any new country which is not already cursed with the actual presence of the evil—slavery. I have never manifested any impatience with the necessities that spring from the black people amongst us, and the actual existence of slavery amongst us where it does already exist; but I have insisted that, in legislating for new countries, where it does not exist, there is no just rule other than that of moral and abstract right! With reference to those new countries, those maxims as to the right of a people to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," were the just rules to be constantly referred to. There is no misunderstanding this, except by men interested to misunderstand it. I take it that I have to address an intelligent and reading community, who will peruse what I say, weigh it, and then judge whether I advance improper or unsound views, or whether I advance hypocritical and deceptive and contrary views in different portions of the country. I believe myself to be guilty of no such things as the latter, though, of course, I cannot claim that I am entirely free from all error in the opinions I advance.

*Prayer-strengthened for the trial, come together,
Put on the harness for the moral fight,
And with the blessings of your Heavenly Father,
Maintain the Right.*

—Whittier.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 9

Wherefore commit ye this great evil against your souls? Jeremiah 44 : 7.

A Moral, Social, and Political Evil.

(Extract from speech in fifth joint debate with Mr. Douglas at Galesburg, Illinois, October 7, 1858. Continued from preceding page.)

From this difference of sentiment—the belief on the part of one that the institution is wrong, and a policy springing from that belief which looks to the arrest of the enlargement of that wrong; and this other sentiment, that it is no wrong, and a policy sprung from that sentiment which will tolerate no idea of preventing that wrong from growing larger, and looks to there never being an end of it through all the existence of things—arises the real difference between Judge Douglas and his friends on the one hand, and the Republicans on the other. Now, I confess myself as belonging to that class in the country who contemplate slavery as a moral, social, and political evil, having due regard for its actual presence amongst us and the difficulties of getting rid of it in any satisfactory way, and to all the Constitutional obligations which have been thrown about it, but nevertheless, desire a policy that looks to the prevention of it as a wrong, and look hopefully to the time when as a wrong it may come to an end.

*Oh! speed the moment on
When Wrong shall cease—and Liberty and Love,
And Truth and Right, throughout the earth be known
As in their home above.*

—Whittier.

SEPTEMBER 10

Let us play the men for our people. II. Samuel 10:12.

Acts of a Drama.

(Extracts from speech in sixth joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Quincy, Illinois, October 13, 1858.)

He reminds me of the fact that he entered upon this canvass with the purpose to treat me courteously; that touched me somewhat. It sets me to thinking. I was aware, when it was first agreed that Judge Douglas and I were to have these seven joint discussions that they were the successive acts of a drama—perhaps I should say, to be enacted not merely in the face of audiences like this, but in the face of the Nation, and, to some extent, be my relation to him, and not from anything in myself, in the face of the world; and I am anxious that they should be conducted with dignity and in the good temper which would be befitting the vast audience before which it was conducted.

*All the world 's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players:
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.*

—Shakespeare.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 11

Perilous times shall come. II. Timothy 3:1.

A Dangerous Element.

(From a speech in the sixth joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Quincy, Illinois, October 13, 1858. Continued from preceding page.)

We have in this Nation this element of domestic slavery. It is a matter of absolute certainty that it is a disturbing element. It is the opinion of all the great men who have expressed an opinion upon it, that it is a dangerous element. We keep up a controversy in regard to it. The controversy necessarily springs from differences of opinion, and if we can learn exactly—can reduce to the lowest elements—what that difference of opinion is, we perhaps shall be better prepared for discussing the different systems of policy that we would propose in regard to the disturbing element. I suggest that the difference of opinion, reduced to its lowest terms, is no other than the difference between the men who think slavery is a wrong and those who do not think it wrong. The Republican party think it wrong—we think it is a moral, a social, and a political wrong. We think it is a wrong not confining itself merely to the persons or the States where it exists, but that it is a wrong in its tendency, to say the least, that extends itself to the existence of the whole Nation. Because we think it wrong, we propose a course of policy that shall deal with it as a wrong. We deal with it as any other wrong, in so far as we can prevent it growing any larger, and so deal with it that in the run of time there may be some promise of an end to it.

*And what is this splendor that dazzles the sight,
Of what are the minions of tyranny proud?
'T is a gleam but that deepens the horrors of night—
'T is a lightning that flashes from slavery's cloud.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 12

Keep thee far from a false matter. Exodus 23:7.

A false Assumption.

(Extract from speech in sixth joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Quincy, Illinois, October 13, 1858. Continued from preceding page.)

Judge Douglas asks of you, "Why cannot the institution of slavery, or rather, why cannot the Nation, part slave and part free, continue as our fathers made it, *forever!*" In the first place, I insist that our fathers *did not* make this Nation half slave and half free, or part slave and part free. I insist that they found the institution of slavery existing here. They did not make it so, but they left it so because they knew of no way to get rid of it at that time. When Judge Douglas undertakes to say that, as a matter of choice, the fathers of the Government made this Nation part slave and part free, he assumes what is historically a falsehood. More than that: when the fathers of the Government cut off the source of slavery by the abolition of the slave trade, and adopted a system of restricting it from the new Territories where it had not existed, I maintain that they placed it where they understood, and all sensible men understood it was—in the course of ultimate extinction; and when Judge Douglas asks me why it cannot continue as our fathers made it, I ask him why he and his friends cannot let it remain where our fathers made it.

*The sages say, Dame Truth delights to dwell—
Strange mansion!—in the bottom of a well.
Questions are, then, the windlass and the rope
That pull the grave old gentlewoman up.*

—Peter Pindar.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 13

Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God. Psalms 143:10.

Opposite Opinions and Advice.

(In response to a delegation from the religious denominations of Chicago, presenting a memorial for the immediate issue of an emancipation proclamation, September 13, 1862.)

The subject presented in the memorial is one upon which I have thought much for weeks past, and I may even say for months. I am approached by the most opposite opinions and advice, and that by religious men who are equally certain that they represent the Divine will. I am sure that either the one or the other class is mistaken in that belief, and perhaps, in some respects, both. I hope it will not be irreverent for me to say that if it is probable that God would reveal his will to others, on a point so connected with my duty, it might be supposed he would reveal it directly to me; for, unless I am more deceived in myself than I often am, it is my earnest desire to know the will of Providence in this matter, and if I can learn what it is, I will do it. These are not, however, the days of miracles, and I suppose it will be granted that I am not to expect a direct revelation. I must study the plain physical facts of the case, ascertain what is possible, and learn what appears to be wise and right.

*But at last we learn the lesson
That God knoweth what is best;
For with wisdom cometh patience,
And with patience cometh rest.
Yea, a golden thread is shining
Through the tangled woof of fate;
And our hearts shall thank him meekly
That he taught us how to wait.*

—Armstrong.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 14

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3 : 1.

An Inoperative Document.

(In response to a delegation from the religious denominations of Chicago, presenting a memorial for the immediate issue of an emancipation proclamation, September 13, 1862. Continued from preceding page.)

You know that the last session of Congress had a decided majority of anti-slavery men, yet they could not unite on this policy. And the same is true of the religious people. Why, the rebel soldiers are praying with a good deal more earnestness, I fear, than our own troops, and expecting God to favor their side. . . . What good would a proclamation of emancipation from me do, especially as we are now situated? I do not want to issue a document that the whole world will see must necessarily be inoperative, like the Pope's bull against the comet. Would my word free the slaves when I cannot even enforce the Constitution in the rebel States? Is there a single court or magistrate or individual that would be influenced by it there?

*Under the storm and the cloud to-day,
And to-day the hard peril and pain—
To-morrow the stone shall be rolled away,
For the sunshine shall follow the rain.
Merciful Father, I will not complain,
I know that the sunshine shall follow the rain.
—Joaquin Miller.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 15

Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor. Jeremiah 22 : 3.

Practical War Measure.

(In response to a delegation from the religious denominations of Chicago, presenting a memorial for the immediate issue of an emancipation proclamation, September 13, 1862. Continued from preceding page.)

Understand, I raise no objections against it on legal or constitutional grounds, for, as commander-in-chief of the army and navy, in time of war I suppose I have a right to take any measure which may best subdue the enemy; nor do I desire objections of a moral nature, in view of possible consequences of insurrection and massacre at the South. I view this matter as a practical war measure, to be decided on according to the advantages or disadvantages it may offer to the suppression of the rebellion. I admit that slavery is at the root of the rebellion, or at least its *sine qua non*. The ambition of politicians may have instigated them to act, but they would have been impotent without slavery as their instrument.

*Lo! a cloud 's about to vanish
From the day;
And a brazen wrong to crumble
Into clay.
Lo! the right 's about to conquer;
Clear the way!
With the Right shall many more
Enter smiling at the door;
With the giant Wrong shall fall
Many others, great and small,
That for ages long have held us
For their prey.
Men of thought and action,
Clear the way!*

—Charles Mackay.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 16

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. Ephesians 5:17.

A Fundamental Idea.

(In response to a delegation from the religious denominations of Chicago, presenting a memorial for the immediate issue of an emancipation proclamation, September 13, 1862. Continued from preceding page.)

Let me say one thing more: I think you should admit that we already have an important principle to rally to and unite the people; in fact, that Constitutional government is at stake. This is a fundamental idea going down about as deep as anything. Do not misunderstand me because I have mentioned these objections. They indicate the difficulties that have thus far prevented my action in some such way as you desire. I have not decided against a proclamation of liberty to the slaves, but hold the matter under advisement. And I can assure you that the subject is on my mind, by day and night, more than any other. Whatever shall appear to be God's will I will do. I trust that in the freedom with which I have canvassed your views I have not in any respect injured your feelings.

*There is a spirit working in the world,
Like to a silent, subterranean fire,
Yet ever and anon some monarch hur'l'd,
Aghast and pale, attests its fearful ire:
The dungeon'd nations now once more respire
The keen and stirring air of liberty.*

—George Hill.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 17

And the common people heard him gladly. Mark 12:37.

Don't Shoot too High.

(Advice to a young lawyer.)

Billy, don't shoot too high—aim lower and the common people will understand you. They are the ones you want to reach—at least, they are the ones you ought to reach. The educated and refined people will understand you, anyway. If you aim too high your idea will go over the heads of the masses and only hit those who need no hitting.

*What is judicious eloquence to those
Whose speech not up to others' reason grows,
But climbs aloft to their own passion's height?
And as our seamen make no use of sight
By anything observed in wide, strange seas,
But only of the length of voyages;
Or else, as men in races make no stay
To draw large prospects of their breath away,
So they, in heedless races of the tongue,
Care not how broad their theme is, but how long.*
—Davenant.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 18

Lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid. *Isaiah 40:9.*

Shooting Over the Line.

(Extract from a speech at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 17, 1859, in answer to Mr. Douglas's charge of Mr. Lincoln's desire to disturb slavery in the Southern States by "shooting over the line.")

It has occurred to me here to-night that if I ever do shoot over at the people on the other side of the line in the slave States, and purpose to do so, keeping my skin safe, that I have now about the best chance I shall ever have. I should not wonder if there are some Kentuckians about this audience; we are close to Kentucky; and whether that be so or not, we are on elevated ground, and by speaking distinctly I should not wonder if some of the Kentuckians would hear me on the other side of the river; for that reason I propose to address a portion of what I have to say to the Kentuckians. I say, then, in the first place, to the Kentuckians, that I am what they call, as I understand it, a "Black Republican." I think that slavery is wrong, morally, socially, and politically. I desire that it should be no further spread in these United States, and I should not object if it would gradually terminate in the whole Union. While I say this for myself, I say to you, Kentuckians, that I understand that you differ radically with me upon this proposition; that you believe slavery is a good thing; that slavery is right; that it ought to be extended and perpetuated in this Union.

*On his bold visage, middle age
Had slightly pressed its signet sage,
Yet had not quenched the open truth
And fiery vehemence of youth:
Forward and frolic glee was there,
The will to do, the soul to dare.*

—Scott.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 19

Then will we give our daughters unto you, and we will take your daughters to us, and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people. Genesis 34 : 16.

What We Mean to Do.

(Extract from a speech at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 17, 1859, alluding to the triumph of Mr. Lincoln's party Addressing the Kentuckians. Continued from preceding page.)

I will tell you, as far as I am authorized to speak for the opposition, what we mean to do with you. We mean to treat you, as nearly as we possibly can, as Washington, Jefferson, and Madison treated you. We mean to leave you alone, and in no way to interfere with your institution; to abide by all and every compromise of the Constitution, and, in a word, coming back to the original proposition, to treat you, so far as degenerated men (if we have degenerated) may, imitating the example of those noble fathers—Washington, Jefferson, and Madison. We mean to remember that you are as good as we are; that there is no difference between us other than the difference in circumstances. We mean to recognize and bear in mind that you have as good hearts in your bosoms as other people, or as we claim to have, and treat you accordingly. We mean to marry your girls when we have a chance—the white ones, I mean—and I have the honor to inform you that I once did get a chance in that way.

*We will renew the times of truth and justice,
Condensing in a fair free commonwealth
Not rash equality, but equal rights,
Proportioned like the columns of the temple,
Giving and taking strength reciprocal,
And making firm the whole with grace and beauty,
So that no part could be removed without
Infringement of the general symmetry.*

—Byron.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 20

Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say,
A confederacy. Isaiah 8 : 12.

What Do You Mean to Do?

(Extract from a speech at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 17, 1859. Addressed to the Kentuckians. Continued from preceding page.)

I have told you what we mean to do. I want to know, now, when that thing takes place, what you mean to do. I often hear it intimated that you mean to divide the Union whenever a Republican, or anything like it, is elected President of the United States. Well, I want to know what you are going to do with your half of it. Are you going to split the Ohio down through, and push your half off a piece? or are you going to keep it right alongside of us outrageous fellows? or are you going to build up a wall some way between your country and ours, by which that movable property of yours can't come over here any more, and you lose it? Do you think you can better yourselves on that subject by leaving us here under no obligation whatever to return those specimens of your movable property that come hither?

*Southrons! hear your country call you!
Up! lest worse than death befall you!
To arms! To arms! To arms in Dixie!
Lo! all the beacon-fires are lighted—
Let all hearts be now united!
To arms! To arms! To arms in Dixie!
Advance the flag of Dixie!
Hurrah! hurrah!
To Dixie's land we take our stand,
And live or die for Dixie!*

—General Albert Pike.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 21

Do nothing rashly. Acts 19:36.

You are Inferior in Numbers.

(Extract from a speech at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 17, 1859. Addressed to Kentuckians. Continued from preceding page.)

You have divided the Union because we would not do right with you, as you think, upon that subject; when we cease to be under obligations to do anything for you, how much better off do you think you will be? Will you make war upon us and kill us all? Why, gentlemen, I think you are as gallant and as brave men as live; that you can fight as bravely in a good cause, man for man, as any other people living; that you have shown yourselves capable of this upon various occasions; but, man for man, you are not better than we are, and there are not so many of you as there are of us. You will never make much of a hand at whipping us. If we were fewer in numbers than you, I think that you could whip us; if we were equal, it would likely be a drawn battle; but, being inferior in numbers, you will make nothing by attempting to master us.

*To broach a war, and not to be assured
Of certain means to make a fair defense,
Howe'er the ground be just, may justly seem
A wilful madness.*

—Hemmings.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 22

Woe unto him that . . . useth his neighbour's service without wages.
Jeremiah 22 : 13.

Rightful Masters.

(Extract from a speech at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 17, 1859. Continued from preceding page.)

I say that we must not interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists, because the Constitution forbids it, and the general welfare does not require us to do so. We must not withhold an efficient fugitive slave law, because the Constitution requires us, as I understand it, not to withhold such a law; but we must prevent the outspreading of the institution, because neither the Constitution nor the general welfare requires us to extend it. We must prevent the revival of the African slave-trade and the enacting by Congress of a territorial slave code. We must prevent each of these things being done by either Congress or Courts. The people of these United States are the rightful masters of both Congress and Courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution.

*Oppression shall not always reign,
There comes a brighter day,
When freedom, burst from every chain,
Shall have triumphant sway.*

—Ware.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 23

I determined this with myself. II. Corinthians 2 : 1.

I Have Determined for Myself.

(Part of the remarks at a Cabinet meeting, September 22, 1862, concerning the Emancipation Proclamation.)

Gentlemen, I have, as you are aware, thought a great deal about the relation of this war to slavery, and you all remember that several weeks ago I read to you an order that I had prepared upon the subject, which, on account of objections made by some of you, was not issued. Ever since then my mind has been much occupied with this subject, and I have thought all along that the time for acting upon it might probably come. I have got you together to hear what I have written down. I do not wish your advice about the main matter, for that I have determined for myself. This I say without intending anything but respect for any one of you. But I already know the views of each on this question. They have been heretofore expressed, and I have considered them as thoroughly and carefully as I can. What I have written is that which my reflections have determined me to say. If there is anything in the expressions I use, or in any minor matter, which any one of you thinks had best be changed, I shall be glad to receive your suggestions.

*He knows the compass, sail, and oar,
Or never launches from the shore;
Before he builds, computes the cost,
And in no proud pursuit is lost.*

—Gay.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 24

Let every man prove his own work. Galatians 6:4.

I Must Do the Best I Can.

(Remarks at Cabinet meeting, September 22, 1862, concerning the Emancipation Proclamation. Continued from preceding page.)

One other observation I will make. I know very well that many others might, in this matter as in others, do better than I can; and if I were satisfied that the public confidence was more fully possessed by any one of them than by me, and knew of any Constitutional way in which he could be put in my place, he should have it. I would gladly yield to him. But though I believe I have not so much of the confidence of the people as I had some time since, I do not know that, all things considered, any other person has more; and, however this may be, there is no way in which I can have any other man put where I am. I am here, and I must do the best I can, and bear the responsibility of taking the course which I feel that I ought to take.

*Abraham, spare the South,
Touch not a single slave;
Nor e'en by word of mouth
Disturb the thing we crave.
'T was our forefathers' hand
That slavery begot;
There, Abraham, let it stand;
Thine acts shall harm it not.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 25

Done right in my sight, in proclaiming liberty every man to his neighbour. Jeremlah 34 : 15.

Henceforward and forever free.

(Extract from the provisional Emancipation Proclamation, issued September 22, 1862.)

On the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, henceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom. The Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States.

*Once battle fires for independence shone,
The rights of man to all the world made known;
Henceforth a Nation, strong thro' liberty,
In this auspicious hour, long live America!
Thy conscience rose 'gainst slav'ry in thy States,
Till Lincoln freed the black man in thy gates;
Henceforth the friend of human kind to be,
Long live, long live America!*

Bishop W. M. Bell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 26

He was a faithful man. Nehemiah 7:2.

No Dissatisfaction of Mine.

(Letter to Honorable Montgomery Blair, Postmaster-General, requesting his resignation as a member of the Cabinet, September 23, 1864.)

You have generously said to me, more than once, that whenever your resignation could be a relief to me, it was at my disposal. The time has come. You very well know that this proceeds from no dissatisfaction of mine with you personally or officially. Your uniform kindness has been unsurpassed by that of any friend, and while it is true that the war does not so greatly add to the difficulties of your department as it does to some others, it is yet much to say, as I most truly can, that in three years and a half, during which you have administered the General Post-Office, I remember no single complaint against you in connection therewith.

*Friendship is the cement of two minds,
As of one man the soul and body is;
Of which one cannot sever but the other
Suffers a needful separation.*

—Chapman.

SEPTEMBER 27

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. Psalms 37:23.

Solemn Sense of Responsibility.

(Extract from a speech at a serenade, September 24, 1862.)

I have not been distinctly informed why it is on this occasion you appear to do me this honor, though I suppose it is because of the proclamation. What I did, I did after very full deliberation and under a very heavy and solemn sense of responsibility. I can only trust in God I have made no mistake. I shall make no attempt on this occasion to sustain what I have done or said by any comment. It is now for the country and the world to pass judgment upon it, and, may be, take action upon it. I will say no more upon this subject. In my position I am environed with difficulties. Yet they are scarcely so great as the difficulties of those who, upon the battle-field, are endeavoring to purchase with their blood and their lives the future happiness and prosperity of the country. Let us not forget them.

*Our children shall behold his fame,
The kindly-carneest, brave, foreseeing man,
Sagacious, patient, dreading praise, not blame,
New birth of our new soil, the first American.*
—Lowell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 28

Believe the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. *Isalah* 1: 17.

Without Money and Without Price.

(Letter written in September, 1857, to Mrs. Hannah Armstrong, whose son had been arrested for murder.)

I have just heard of your deep affliction, and the arrest of your son for murder. I can hardly believe that he is guilty of the crime alleged against him. It does not seem possible. I am anxious that he should have a fair trial, at any rate; and gratitude for your long-continued kindness to me in adverse circumstances prompts me to offer my humble services gratuitously in his behalf. It will afford me an opportunity to requite, in a small degree, the favors I received at your hand, and that of your lamented husband, when your roof afforded me grateful shelter, without money and without price.

*There are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave,
There are souls that are pure and true;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best shall come back to you.*

*Give love, and love to your heart will flow,
A strength in your utmost need;
Have faith, and a score of hearts will show
Their faith in your word and deed.*

—Madeline S. Bridges.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 29

He reasoned of . . . temperance. Acts 24:25.

I Made Temperance Speeches.

(In response to an address from the Sons of Temperance in Washington, on the 29th of September, 1863.)

If I were better known than I am, you would not need to be told that in advocacy of the cause of temperance you have a friend and sympathizer in me. When a young man—long ago—before the Sons of Temperance, as an organization, had an existence, I, in a humble way, made temperance speeches, and I think I may say that to this day I have never, by my example, belied what I then said. . . . I think the reasonable men of the world have long since agreed that intemperance is one of the greatest of all evils among mankind. That the disease exists, and that it is a very great one, is agreed upon by all. The mode of cure is one about which there may be differences of opinion.

*Plant the temperance standard firmly,
Round it live, and round it die;
Young and old defend it sternly,
Till we gain the victory,
And all nations
Hail the happy jubilee.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

SEPTEMBER 30

I remember the days of old. Psalms 143:5.

My Childhood Home.

(Selections from a poem written when he was thirty-five years of age, on the occasion of a visit to the neighborhood of his old Indiana home to make a speech in behalf of Henry Clay, in 1844. The third, fourth, and fifth verses are omitted.)

*My childhood home I see again,
And sadden with the view;
And still, as memory crowds my brain,
There 's pleasure in it, too.*

*O Memory! thou midday world
'Twillst earth and paradise,
Where things decayed, and loved ones lost,
In dreamy shadows rise!*

*Near twenty years have passed away
Since here I bid farewell
To woods and fields and scenes of play,
And playmates loved so well.*

*Where many were, but few remain,
Of old familiar things;
But seeing them to mind again
The lost and absent brings.*

*The friends I left that parting day,
How changed, as time has sped!
Young childhood grown, strong manhood gray,
And half of all are dead.*

*I hear the loud survivors tell
How naught from death could save,
Till every sound appears a knell,
And every spot a grave.*

*I range the fields with pensive tread
And pace the hollow rooms,
And feel (companions of the dead)
I 'm living in the tombs.*

*Still o'er those scenes my memory wakes,
And fondly broods with miser care;
Time but the impression deeper makes
As streams their channels deeper wear.*

—Burns.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 1

Execute true judgment, and show mercy. Zechariah 7 : 9.

Calmness, Caution, and Forbearance,

(To General John M. Schofield, October 1, 1863.)

There is no organized military force in avowed opposition to the general Government now in Missouri; and if any shall reappear, your duty in regard to it will be too plain to require any special instruction. . . . Under your recent order, which I have approved, you will arrest individuals and suppress assemblies or newspapers only when they may be working palpable injury to the military in your charge; and in no other case will you interfere with the expression of opinion in any form or allow it to be interfered with violently by others. In this you have a discretion to exercise with great caution, calmness, and forbearance. . . . So far as practicable, you will, by means of your military force, expel guerrillas, marauders, and murderers, and all who are known to harbor, aid, or abet them. But in like manner you will oppress assumptions of unauthorized individuals to perform the same service, because under pretense of doing this they become marauders and murderers themselves.

*Circumstances must make it probable
Whether the cause's justice may command
Th' attendance of success: for an attempt
That 's warranted by justice cannot want
A prosperous end. —Nabb.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 2

Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Luke 6 : 36.

Pardons and Respites.

(To Honorable Schuyler Colfax, who requested the respite of a son of a constituent who was sentenced to be shot.)

Some of our generals complain that I impair discipline and subordination in the army by my pardons and respites, but it makes me rested, after a hard day's work, if I can find some good excuse for saving a man's life, and I go to bed happy as I think how joyous the signing of my name will make him and his family and his friends.

(On another occasion, when some one made an application for pardon for a deserter.)

Did you say he was once badly wounded? Then, as the Scriptures say that in the shedding of blood is the remission of sins, I guess we will have to let him off this time.

*'T is well known that while I was protector,
Pity was all the fault that was in me;
For I should melt at an offender's tears,
And lowly words were ransom for their fault.*

—Shakespeare.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 3

Offer unto God thanksgiving. Psalms 50:14.

Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer.

(Part of Thanksgiving Proclamation issued October 3, 1863.)

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful Providence of Almighty God. . . . No human council hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea, and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and prayer to our beneficent Father, who dwelleth in the heavens.

*O Father Almighty,
Our trust is in thee,
Thy will now awaiting
Through love, law, and liberty,
Our voices ascending
From vale, hill, and crag,
In this motto blending:*

"One country, one speech, one flag."

—Silas G. Pratt.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 4

They . . . went backward, and not forward. Jeremiah 7:24.

A Retrograde Institution.

(Reply to Stephen A. Douglas, on the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, Springfield, Illinois, October 4, 1854.)

Be not deceived. The spirit of the Revolution and the spirit of Nebraska are antipodes, and the former is being rapidly displaced by the latter. Shall we make no effort to arrest this? Already the liberal party throughout the world expresses the apprehension "that the one retrograde institution in America is undermining the principles of progress and fatally violating the noblest political system the world ever saw." This is not the taunt of enemies, but the warning of friends. Is it quite safe to disregard it, to disparage it? Is there no danger to liberty itself in discarding the earliest practice and first precept of our ancient faith? In our greedy haste to make profit of the negro, let us beware lest we cancel and rend in pieces even the white man's character of freedom. My distinguished friend Douglas says it is an insult to the emigrants to Kansas and Nebraska to suppose that they are not capable of governing themselves. We must not slur over an argument of this kind because it happens to tickle the ear. It must be met and answered. I admit the emigrant to Kansas and Nebraska is competent to govern himself, but I deny his right to govern any other person without that person's consent.

*Vice is a monster of so frightful mien
As to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet, seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.*

—*Pope.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 5

One whom his mother comforteth. *Isalah 66:13.*

My Angel Mother.

(Nancy Hanks Lincoln died in Spencer County, Indiana,
October 5, 1818, aged 35 years.)

All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother, blessings on her memory.

I can remember her prayers, and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.

I promised my precious mother only a few days before she died that I would never use anything intoxicating as a beverage, and I consider that promise as binding to-day as it was the day I made it.

*Ah! mother of as grand a son
As ever battled in the van
To prove the brotherhood of man,
Such lives as thine are never done.
We can but wonder, we who read
The past with backward searching look,
Its pages open as a book,
If thou foreseest where he would lead.*

—Ben D. House.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 6

Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations. *Isalah 58: 12.*

Foundations of New Societies.

(Extract from speech in the seventh and last joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Alton, Illinois, October 15, 1858.)

The principle upon which I have insisted in this canvass is in relation to laying the foundation of new societies. I have never sought to apply these principles to the old States for the purpose of abolishing slavery in those States. It is nothing but a miserable perversion of what I *have* said, to assume that I have declared Missouri, or any other slave State, shall emancipate her slaves. I have proposed no such thing. But when Mr. Clay says that in laying the foundations of societies in our Territories where it does not exist, he would be opposed to the introduction of slavery as an element, I insist that we have his warrant—his license—for insisting upon the exclusion of that element which he declared in such strong and emphatic language *was most hateful to him.*

*Great God! we thank thee for this home—
This bounteous birthland of the free;
Where wanderers from afar may come
And breathe the air of Liberty!
Still may her flowers untrampled spring,
Her harvests wave, her cities rise;
And yet, till Time shall fold his wing,
Remain earth's loveliest paradise.*

—W. J. Pabodie.





The Lincoln Tomb at Springfield, Ill.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 7

So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave th
sense, and caused them to understand the reading. Nehemiah 8:8.

No Mention of the Word "Negro," or "Slavery."

(Extract from speech in the seventh and last joint debate
with Mr. Douglas at Alton, Illinois, October 15, 1858. Con-
tinued from preceding page.)

There is no mention of the word "negro," or "slavery." In all
three of these places, being the only allusions to slavery in the
instrument, covert language is used. Language is used not sug-
gesting that slavery or that the black race were among us. And
I understand the contemporaneous history of those times to be
that covert language was used with a purpose, and that purpose
was that in our Constitution, which it was hoped and is still
hoped will endure forever—when it should be read by intelligent
and patriotic men, after the institution of slavery has passed
from among us—there should be nothing on the face of the great
charter of liberty suggesting that such a thing as negro slavery
had ever existed among us. This is part of the evidence that the
fathers of the Government expected and intended the institution
of slavery to come to an end.

*If we retain the glory of our ancestors,
Whose ashes will rise up against our dullness,
Shake off our tameness, and give way to courage,
We need not doubt, inspired with a just rage,
To break the necks of those that would yoke ours.*

—Tatham.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 8

There are contentions among you. I. Corinthians 1: 11.

No Parallel.

(Extract from speech in the seventh and last joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Alton, Illinois, October 15, 1858. Continued from preceding page.)

But when I have admitted all this, I ask if there is any parallel between these things and this institution of slavery? I do not see that there is any parallel at all between them. Consider it. When have we had any difficulty or quarrel amongst ourselves about the cranberry laws of Indiana, or the oyster laws of Virginia, or the pine-lumber laws of Maine, or the fact that Louisiana produces sugar, and Illinois flour? When have we had any quarrel over these things? When have we had perfect peace in regard to this thing which I say is an element of discord in this Union? We have sometimes had peace, but when was it? It was when the institution of slavery remained quiet where it was. We have had difficulty and turmoil whenever it has made a struggle to spread itself where it was not. I ask, then, if experience does not speak in thunder tones, telling us that the policy which has given peace to the country heretofore, being returned to, gives the greatest promise of peace again.

*Blest, too, is he who can divine
Where real right doth lie,
And dares to take the side that seems
Wrong to man's blindfolded eye.*
—Faber

OCTOBER 9

Ye are cursed with a curse. Malachi 3:9.

Disturbs Outside of Political Circles.

(Extract from speech in the seventh and last joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Alton, Illinois, October 15, 1858. Continued from preceding page.)

But does not this question make a disturbance outside of political circles? Does it not enter into churches and rend them asunder? What divided the great Methodist Church into two parts, North and South? What has raised this constant disturbance in every Presbyterian General Assembly that meets? What disturbed the Unitarian Church in this very city two years ago? What has jarred and shaken the great American Tract Society recently, not yet splitting it, but sure to divide it in the end? Is it not this same mighty, deep-seated power that somehow operates on the minds of men, exciting and stirring them up in every avenue of society, in politics, in religion, in literature, in morals, in all the manifold relations of life? Is this the work of politicians? Is that irresistible power which for fifty years has shaken the Government and agitated the people to be stilled and subdued by pretending that it is an exceedingly simple thing, and we ought not to talk about it? If you will get everybody to stop talking about it, I assure you I will quit before they have half done so. . . . Where is the philosophy or the statesmanship based on the assumption that we are to quit talking about it, and that the public mind is all at once to cease being agitated by it? Yet this is the policy here in the North that Douglas is advocating—that we are to care nothing about it! I ask you, is it not a false philosophy? Is it not a false statesmanship that undertakes to build up a system of policy upon the basis of caring nothing about the very thing that everybody does care the most about—a thing which all experience has shown we care a great deal about?

*Shall tongues be mute when deeds are wrought
Which well might shame extremest hell?
Shall freemen lock th' indignant thought?
Shall Mercy's bosom cease to swell?
Shall Honor bleed? Shall Truth succumb?
Shall pen, and press, and soul be dumb?*
—Whittier.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 10

Maketh merchandise of him ; . . . thou shalt put evil away from among you. Deuteronomy 24 : 7.

The Real Issue.

(Extract from speech in the seventh and last joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Alton, Illinois, October 15, 1858. Continued from preceding page.)

The real issue in this controversy—the one pressing upon every mind—is the sentiment on the part of one class that looks upon the institution of slavery as a wrong, and of another class that does not look upon it as a wrong. The sentiment that contemplates the institution of slavery in this country as a wrong is the sentiment of the Republican party. It is the sentiment around which all their actions, all their arguments circle, from which all their propositions radiate. They look upon it as being a moral, social, and political wrong, and while they contemplate it as such, they nevertheless have due regard for its actual existence among us, and the difficulties of getting rid of it in any satisfactory way, and to all the Constitutional obligations thrown about it. Yet, having a due regard for these, they desire a policy in regard to it that looks to its not creating any more danger. They insist that it should, as far as may be, be treated as a wrong, and one of the methods of treating it as a wrong is to make provisions that it shall grow no larger. They also desire a policy that looks to a peaceful end of slavery at some time, as being wrong.

*By the hope within us springing,
Herald of to-morrow's strife;
By that sun, whose light is bringing
Chains or freedom, death or life—
Oh! remember, in life can be
No charms for him who lives not free.*

—Moore.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 11

Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate.
Amos 5: 15.

Treat It as a Wrong.

(Extract from speech in the seventh and last joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Alton, Illinois, October 15, 1858. Continued from preceding page.)

On this subject of treating it as a wrong, and limiting its spread, let me say a word. Has anything ever threatened the existence of the Union save and except this very institution of slavery? What is it that we hold most dear among us? Our own liberty and prosperity. What has ever threatened our liberty and prosperity save and except this institution of slavery? If this is true, how do you propose to improve the condition of things by enlarging slavery—by spreading it out and making it bigger? You may have a wen or cancer upon your person and not be able to cut it out lest you bleed to death; but surely it is no way to cure it to engraft it and spread it over your whole body. That is no proper way of treating what you regard a wrong. You see this peaceful way of dealing with it as a wrong—restricting the spread of it, and not allowing it to go into new countries where it has not already existed. That is the peaceful way, the old-fashioned way, the way in which the fathers themselves set us the example.

*I am thinking to-day of dem years dat passed away,
When dey tied me up in bondage long ago;
In old Virginny State, it was dar we separate,
And it filled my heart with misery and woe.
Dey took away my boy, he was his mother's joy,
From a baby in de cradle we him raise;
Oh! dey put us far apart, an' it broke de old man's heart,
In dem agonising, cruel slavery days.*

—Anonymous.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 12

Stand not in an evil thing. Ecclesiastes 8:3.

You Never Treat It as a Wrong.

(Extract from speech in seventh and last joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Alton, Illinois, October 15, 1858. Continued from preceding page.)

On the other hand, I have said there is a sentiment which treats it as not being a wrong. That is the Democratic sentiment of this day. I do not mean to say that every man who stands within that range positively asserts that it is right. That class will include all who positively assert that it is right, and all who, like Judge Douglas, treat it as indifferent and do not say that it is either right or wrong. These two classes of men fall within the general class of those who do not look upon it as a wrong; and if there be among you anybody who supposes that he, as a Democrat, can consider himself "as much opposed to slavery as anybody," I would like to reason with him. You never treat it as a wrong. What other thing that you consider as a wrong do you deal with as you deal with that? Perhaps you say it is wrong, but your leader never does, and you quarrel with anybody who says it is wrong. Although you pretend to say so yourself, you can find no fit place to deal with it as a wrong. You must not say anything about it in the free States because it is not here. You must not say anything about it in the slave States because it is there. You must not say anything about it in the pulpit because that is religion and has nothing to do with it. You must not say anything about it in politics because that will disturb the security of "my place." There is no place to talk about it as being a wrong, although you say yourself it is a wrong.

*Then to side with truth is noble when we share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit, and 't is prosperous to be just:
Then it is the brave man chooses, while the coward stands aside,
Doubting in his abject spirit, till his Lord is crucified,
And the multitude make virtue of the faith they had denied.*

—Lowell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 13

Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him. . . . Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him. Isaiah 3:10, 11.


The Eternal Struggle.

(Extract from speech in the seventh and last joint debate with Mr. Douglas, at Alton, Illinois, October 15, 1858. Continued from the preceding page.)

That is the real issue. That is the issue that will continue in this country when these poor tongues of Judge Douglas and myself shall be silent. It is the eternal struggle between these two principles—right and wrong—throughout the world. They are the two principles that have stood face to face from the beginning of time, and will ever continue to struggle. The one is the common right of humanity, and the other the divine right of kings. It is the same principle in whatever shape it develops itself. It is the same spirit that says, "You work and toil and earn bread, and I'll eat it." No matter in what shape it comes, whether from the mouth of a king who seeks to bestride the people of his own nation and live by the fruit of their labor, or from one race of men as an apology for enslaving another race, it is the same tyrannical principle.

*It 's coming on the steeps of time,
And this old world is growing brighter;
We may not see its dawn sublime,
But high hopes make the heart thro' lighter.
We may be sleeping in our graves
When it awakes the world in wonder,
But we have felt its coming sound
And heard its voice of thunder.
It 's coming! Yes, it 's coming!*

—Anonymous.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 14

Nebuchadnessar king of Babylon hath taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you. Jeremiah 49:30.

Declaration of Purpose.

(Extract from speech at Columbus, Ohio, September 16, 1859, in reply to a recent speech of Mr. Douglas at same place.)

The American people, on the first day of January, 1854, found the African slave-trade prohibited by a law of Congress. In a majority of the States of this Union, they found African slavery, or any other sort of slavery, prohibited by State constitutions. They also found a law existing, supposed to be valid, by which slavery was excluded from almost all the territory the United States then owned. This was the condition of the country with reference to the institution of slavery, on the first of January, 1854. A few days after that, a bill was introduced into Congress, which ran through its regular course in the two branches of the National Legislature, and finally passed into a law in the month of May, by which the act of Congress prohibiting slavery from going into the Territories of the United States was repealed. In connection with the law itself, and, in fact, in the terms of the law, the then existing prohibition was not only repealed, but there was a declaration of a purpose on the part of Congress never thereafter to exercise any power that they might have, real or supposed, to prohibit the extension or spread of slavery.

*The mountains—they proclaim
The everlasting creed of liberty!
That creed is written on the untrampled snow,
Thundered by torrents which no power can hold
Save that of God when he sends forth his cold,
And breathed by winds that through the free heavens blow.*

—Bryant.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 15

Consider the years of many generations. Deuteronomy 32:7.

Genuine Popular Sovereignty.

(Extract from speech at Columbus, Ohio, September 16, 1859, in reply to a recent speech of Mr. Douglas at same place. Continued from preceding page.)

I believe there is a genuine popular sovereignty. I think a definition of genuine popular sovereignty, in the abstract, would be about this, That each man shall do precisely as he pleases with himself and with those things which exclusively concern him. Applied to government, this principle would be that a general government shall do all those things which pertain to it, and all the local governments shall do precisely as they please in respect to those matters which exclusively concern them. I understand that this Government of the United States, under which we live, is based upon this principle; and I am misunderstood if it is supposed that I have any war to make upon that principle. Now what is Judge Douglas's "popular sovereignty"? It is, as a principle, no other than that, if one man chooses to make a slave of another man, neither that other man nor anybody else has a right to object. Applied in government, as he seeks to apply it, it is this: If, in a new Territory into which a few people are beginning to enter for the purpose of making their homes, they choose to either exclude slavery from their limits or to establish it there, however one or the other may affect the persons to be enslaved, or the indefinitely greater number of persons who are afterward to inhabit that Territory, or the other members of families of communities of which they are but an incipient member, or the general head of the family of State as parent of all—however their action may affect one or the other of these, there is no power or right to interfere. That is Douglas's popular sovereignty applied.

*Hail, independence—by true reason taught,
How few have known and prized thee as they ought!
Some give thee up for riot; some, like boys,
Resign thee in their childish moods, for toys;
Ambition some, some avarice misleads,
And in both cases, independence bleeds.*

—Churchill.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 16

Omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith.
Matthew 23:23.

Matter of Dollars and Cents.

(Extract from speech at Columbus, Ohio, September 16, 1859, in reply to a recent speech of Mr. Douglas at same place. Continued from preceding page.)

After Judge Douglas has established this proposition, which nobody disputes or ever has disputed, he proceeds to assume, without proving it, that slavery is one of those little, unimportant, trivial matters which are of just as much consequence as the question would be to me whether my neighbor should raise horned cattle or plant tobacco; that there is no moral question about it, but that it is altogether a matter of dollars and cents; that when a new Territory is opened for settlement, the first man who goes into it may plant there a thing which, like the Canada thistle or some other of those pests of the soil, cannot be dug out by the millions of men who will come together; that it is one of those little things that is so trivial in its nature that it has no effect upon anybody save the few men who first plant upon the soil; that it is not a thing which in any way affects the families of communities composing these States, nor in any way endangers the general Government. Judge Douglas ignores altogether the very well known fact that we have never had a serious menace to our political existence, except it sprang from this thing which he chooses to regard as only upon a par with onions and potatoes.

*And oh! if there be, on this earthly sphere,
A boon, an offering Heaven holds dear,
'Tis the last libation liberty draws
From the heart that bleeds, and breaks in her cause!*

—Moore.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 17

As if that were a very little thing. Ezekiel 16 : 47.

This Little Negro Question.

(Extract from speech at Columbus, Ohio, September 16, 1859, in reply to a recent speech of Mr. Douglas at same place. Continued from preceding page.)

There is another little difficulty about this matter of treating the Territories and States alike in all things, to which I ask your attention, and I shall leave this branch of the case. If there is no difference between them, why not make the Territories States at once? What is the reason that Kansas was not fit to come into the Union when it was organized into a Territory, in Judge Douglas's view? Can any of you tell any reason why it should not have come into the Union at once? They are fit, as he thinks, to decide upon the slavery question—the largest and most important with which they could possibly deal. What could they do by coming into the Union that they are not fit to do, according to his view, by staying out of it? Oh! they are not fit to sit in Congress and decide upon the rates of postage or questions of *ad valorem*, or specific duties on foreign goods, or live oak-timber contracts. They are not fit to decide these vastly important matters, which are national in their import, but they are "fit from the jump" to decide this little negro question.

*My angel—his name is Freedom—
Choose him to be your king;
He shall out pathways East and West,
And fend you with his wing.*

—Emerson.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 18

Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance. Joshua 24 : 25.

Ordinance of 1787.

(Extract from a speech at Columbus, Ohio, September 16, 1859, in reply to a recent speech of Mr. Douglas at same place. Continued from preceding page.)

But three years after that the Congress of the Confederation were together again, and they adopted a new ordinance for the government of this Northwest Territory, not contemplating territory south of the river, for the States owning that territory had hitherto refrained from giving it to the general Government; hence they made the ordinance to apply only to what the Government owned. In that, the provision excluding slavery was inserted and passed unanimously, or at any rate it passed and became a part of the law of the land. Under that ordinance we live. First here in Ohio you were a Territory, then an enabling act was passed, authorizing you to form a constitution and State government, provided it was republican and not in conflict with the Ordinance of '87. When you framed your constitution and presented it for admission, I think you will find the legislation upon the subject will show that, "whereas you had formed a constitution that was republican and not in conflict with the Ordinance of '87," therefore you were admitted upon equal footing with the original States. The same process in a few years was gone through with in Indiana, and so with Illinois, and the same substantially with Michigan and Wisconsin.

*Land of the West—beneath the heaven
There's not a fairer, lovelier clime,
Not one to which was ever given
A destiny more high, sublime.*

—Gallagher.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 19

How long halt ye between two opinions ? I. Kings 18 : 21.

Two Ways of Establishing a Proposition.

(Extract from speech at Columbus, Ohio, September 16, 1859, in reply to a recent speech of Mr. Douglas at same place. Continued from preceding page.)

There are two ways of establishing a proposition. One is by trying to demonstrate it upon reason, and the other is to show that great men in former times have thought so and so, and thus to pass it by weight of pure authority. Now, if Judge Douglas will demonstrate somehow that this is popular sovereignty—the right of one man to make a slave of another, without any right in that other, or any one else to object—demonstrate it as Euclid demonstrated a proposition—there is no objection. But when he comes forward seeking to carry a principle by bringing it to the authority of men who themselves utterly repudiate that principle, I ask that he shall not be permitted to do it. I see in the Judge's speech here, a short sentence in these words, "Our fathers, when they formed this Government under which we live, understood this question just as well and even better than we do now." That is true; I stick to that. I will stand by Judge Douglas in that to the bitter end. And now, Judge Douglas, come and stand by me, and truthfully show how they acted, understanding it better than we do. All I ask of you, Judge Douglas, is to stick to the proposition that the men of the Revolution understood this subject better than we do now, and with that better understanding they acted better than you are trying to act now.

The grand debate.

*The popular harangue, the tart reply,
The logic, and the wisdom, and the wit,
And the loud laugh—I long to know them all.*

—Cooper.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 20

Through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper. Daniel 8 : 25.

Here Matter of Policy.

(Extract from speech at Columbus, Ohio, September 16, 1859, in reply to a recent speech of Mr. Douglas at same place. Continued from preceding page.)

If this principle is established, that there is no wrong in slavery, and whoever wants it has a right to have it, it is a matter of dollars and cents, a sort of question as to how they shall deal with brutes, and that between us and the negro here there is no sort of question, but that at the South the question is between the negro and the crocodile. That is all. It is a mere matter of policy; there is a perfect right according to interest to do just as you please. When this is done, where this doctrine prevails, the miners and the sappers will have formed public opinion for the slave-trade. They will be ready for Jeff. Davis and Stephens and other leaders of that company, to sound the bugle for the revival of the slave-trade, for the second Dred Scott decision, for the flood of slavery to be poured over the free States, while we shall be here tied down and helpless and run over like sheep.

*Down with the Law that binds him thus!
Uncorthy freemen, let it And
No refuge from the withering curse
Of God and human kind!
Open the prisoner's living tomb,
And usher from its brooding gloom
The victims of your savage code
To the free sun and air of God!
No longer dare as crime to brand
The chastening of th' Almighty's hand.*
—Whittier.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 21

For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the Lord. Psalms 12 : 5.

Tendencies to Ultimate Emancipation.

(Extract from a speech at Columbus, Ohio, September 16, 1859, in reply to a recent speech of Mr. Douglas at the same place. Continued from preceding page.)

Now, if you are opposed to slavery honestly, as much as anybody, I ask you to note that fact, and the like of which is to follow, to be plastered on, layer after layer, until very soon you are prepared to deal with the negro everywhere as with the brute. If public sentiment has not been debauched already to this point, a new turn of the screw in that direction is all that is wanting; and this is constantly being done by the teachers of this insidious popular sovereignty. You need but one or two turns further until your minds, now ripening under these teachings, will be ready for all these things, and you will receive and support, or submit to the slave-trade, revived with all its horrors, a slave code enforced in our Territories, and a new Dred Scott decision to bring slavery up to the very heart of the free North. This, I must say, is but carrying out those words prophetically spoken by Mr. Clay many, many years ago—I believe more than thirty years—when he told an audience that if they would repress all tendencies to liberty and ultimate emancipation, they must go back to the era of our independence and muzzle the cannon which thundered its annual joyous return on the Fourth of July; they must blow out the moral lights around us; they must penetrate the human soul and eradicate the love of liberty; but until they did these things, and others eloquently enumerated by him, they could not repress all tendencies to ultimate emancipation.

*We pray de Lord he giv a sign,
Dat some day we be free;
De norf wind tell it to de pines,
De wild duck to de sea;
We tink it when de ohuroh bell ring,
We dream it in de dream;
De rice bird mean it when he sing,
De agle when he scream.*

—Whittier.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 23

The law of the wise is a fountain of life. Proverbs 13 : 14.

The Ultimate Law for All.

(Extract from a speech in response to a call of loyal Marylanders and others, at the Executive Mansion, October 19, 1864, who serenaded the President in honor of the new State constitution adopted, October 12, 1864.)

I am notified that this is a compliment paid me by the loyal Marylanders resident in this District. I infer that the adoption of the new constitution for that State furnishes the occasion, and that in your view the extirpation of slavery constitutes the chief merit of the new constitution. Most heartily do I congratulate you and Maryland and the Nation and the world upon the event. I regret that it did not occur two years sooner, which I am sure would have saved to the Nation more money than would have met all the private loss incident to the measure. But it has come at last, and I sincerely hope its friends may fully realize all their anticipations of good from it, and that its opponents may by its effect be agreeably and profitably disappointed. . . . I am struggling to maintain the Government, not to overthrow it; I am struggling especially to prevent others from overthrowing it, and I therefore say that if I shall live, I shall remain President until the 4th of next March, and that whoever shall be constitutionally elected thereto in November shall be duly installed as President on the 4th of March, and that in the meantime I shall do my utmost, that whoever is to hold the helm for the next voyage shall start with the best possible chance to save the ship. This is due to the people, both on principle and under the Constitution. Their will, constitutionally expressed, is the ultimate law for all.

*Lincoln, the patriot, who by stroke of his pen,
Proclaimed emancipation, gave freedom to men;
Tho' in time Mississippi to flow may cease,
His name will live on, while his soul rests in peace.*
—Clara Lothamer Miller.



The Monument and Burial Place of the Mother of Abraham Lincoln, near Lincoln City, Indiana.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 23

They agreed not among themselves. Acts 28:25.

Radicals and Conservatives.

(Extract from a lengthy letter to Honorable Charles Drake and others, October 5, 1863.)

I do not feel justified to enter upon the broad field you present in regard to the political differences between radicals and conservatives. From time to time I have done and said what appeared to me proper to do and say. The public knows it well. It obliges nobody to follow me, and I trust it obliges me to follow nobody. The radicals and conservatives each agree with me in some things and disagree in others. I could wish both to agree with me in all things; for then they would agree with each other, and would be too strong for any foe from any quarter. They, however, choose to do otherwise; and I do not question their right. I, too, shall do what seems to be my duty.

*Here 's a sigh for those who love me,
And a smile to those who hate;
And whatever sky's above me,
Here 's a heart for any fate.*

Byron.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 24

And the Lord was very angry with Aaron to have destroyed him: and I prayed for Aaron also the same time. Deuteronomy 9:20.

Scriptural Authority.

(In reply to a criticism for appointing to an office a man who had strongly opposed the President's second term.)

Well, I suppose Judge E., having been disappointed before, did behave pretty ugly, but that wouldn't make him any less fit for the place; and I think I have Scriptural authority for appointing him. You remember when the Lord was on Mount Sinai, getting out a commission for Aaron, that same Aaron was at the foot of the mountain making a false god for the people to worship. Yet Aaron got his commission, you know.

*Sweet are the uses of adversity,
Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous,
Wears yet a precious jewel in his head;
And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.*

—Shakespeare.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 25

Then the devil . . . saith unto him, . . . It is written. Matthew 4 : 5, 6.

Slavery in Bible Times.

(Extract from speech at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 17, 1859, addressed to Kentuckians. See September 18.)

In Kentucky perhaps, in many of the slave States certainly, you are trying to establish the rightfulness of slavery by reference to the Bible. You are trying to show that slavery existed in the Bible times by divine ordinance. Now, Douglas is wiser than you, for your own benefit, upon that subject. Douglas knows that whenever you establish that slavery was right by the Bible, it will occur that *that* slavery was the slavery of the *white* man—of men without reference to color—and he knows very well that you may entertain that idea in Kentucky as much as you please; but you will never win any Northern support upon it. He makes a wiser argument for you; he makes the argument that the slavery of the *black* man, the slavery of the man who has a skin of a different color from your own, is right. He thereby brings to your support Northern voters who would not for a moment be brought by your own argument of the Bible right of slavery.

*The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose;
An evil soul, producing holy witness,
Is like a villain with a smiling cheek;
A goodly apple, rotten at the heart:
O what a goodly outside falsehood hath!*

—Shakespeare.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 26

As plain to him that understandeth. Proverbs 8 : 2.

An Illustration.

(From a speech at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 17, 1859.
Continued from preceding page.)

Pray, what was it that made you free? What kept you free? Did you not find your country free when you came to decide that Ohio should be a free State? It is important to inquire by what reason you found it so. Let us take an illustration between the States of Ohio and Kentucky. Kentucky is separated from us by this river Ohio, not a mile wide. A portion of Kentucky, by reason of the course of the Ohio, is farther north than this portion of Ohio in which we now stand. Kentucky is entirely covered with slavery; Ohio is entirely free from it. What made that difference? Was it climate? No! A portion of Kentucky was further north than this portion of Ohio. Was it soil? No! There is nothing in the soil of the one more favorable to slave labor than the other. It was not climate or soil that caused one side of the line to be entirely covered with slavery and the other side free of it. What was it? Study over it. Tell us, if you can, in all the range or conjecture, if there be anything you can conceive of that made that difference, other than that there was no law of any sort keeping it out of Kentucky, while the Ordinance of '87 kept it out of Ohio. If there is any other reason than this, I confess that it is wholly beyond my power to conceive of it. This, then, I offer to combat the idea that that ordinance has never made any State free.

*My country! aye, thy sons are proud,
True heirs of freedom's glorious dower,
For never here has knee been bowed
In homage to a mortal power.*

—Mrs. Hale.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 27

Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set. Proverbs 22:28.

Why Indiana Became a Free State.

(Extract from a speech at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 17, 1859. Continued from preceding page.)

I don't stop at this illustration. I come to the State of Indiana, and what I have said as between Kentucky and Ohio I repeat as between Indiana and Kentucky; it is equally applicable. One additional argument is applicable also to Indiana. In her Territorial condition she more than once petitioned Congress to abrogate the ordinance entirely, or at least so far as to suspend its operation for a time, in order that they should exercise the "popular sovereignty" of having slaves if they wanted them. The men then controlling the general Government, imitating the men of the Revolution, refused Indiana that privilege. And so we have evidence that Indiana supposed she could have slaves, if it were not for that ordinance; that she besought Congress to remove that barrier out of the way; that Congress refused to do so, and it all ended at last in Indiana being a Free State. Tell me not, then, that the Ordinance of '87 had nothing to do with making Indiana a free State, when we find some men chafing against and only restrained by that barrier.

*Thou, O my country, hast thy foolish ways,
Too apt to prur at every stranger's praise—
But if the stranger touch thy modes or laws,
Off goes the velvet and out come the claws.*

—Holmes.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 28

A man . . . went out early in the morning to hire laborers. Matthew 20:1.

Capital and Labor.

(Extract from a speech at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 17, 1859. Continued from preceding page.)

Labor is the great source from which nearly all, if not all human comforts and necessities are drawn. There is a difference in opinion about the elements of labor in society. Some men assume that there is a necessary connection between capital and labor, and that connection draws within it the whole of the labor of the community. They assume that nobody works unless capital excites them to work. They begin next to consider what is the best way. They say there are but two ways: one is to hire men and to allure them to labor by their consent; the other is to buy the men and drive them to it, and that is slavery. Having assumed that, they proceed to discuss the question of whether the laborers themselves are better off in the condition of slaves or of hired laborers, and they usually decide that they are better off in the condition of slaves. In the first place, I say that the whole thing is a mistake. That there is a certain relation between capital and labor I admit; that it does exist, and rightfully exists, I think is true; that men who are industrious and sober and honest in the pursuit of their own interests should after a while accumulate capital, and after that should be allowed to enjoy it in peace, and also, if they should choose, when they have accumulated it, to use it to save themselves from actual labor and hire other people to labor for them, is right. In doing so, they do not wrong the man they employ, for they find men who have not of their own land to work upon, or shops to work in, and who are benefited by working for others—hired laborers, receiving their capital for it. Thus a few men that own capital hire a few others, and these establish the relation of capital and labor rightfully—a relation of which I make no complaint. But I insist that that relation, after all, does not embrace more than one-eighth of the labor of the country.

*No man is born into the world whose work
Is not born with him. There is always work,
And tools to work withal, for those who will;
And blessed be the horny hands of toil.*

—Lowell.

OCTOBER 29

From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures. II, Timothy 3:15.

The Good Old Maxims of the Bible.

(Extract from a speech at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 17, 1859. Continued from preceding page.)

The good old maxims of the Bible are applicable, and truly applicable to human affairs, and in this, as in other things, we may say here that he who is not for us is against us; he who gathereth not with us, scattereth. I should be glad to have some of the many good and able and noble men of the South to place themselves where we can confer upon them the high honor of an election upon one or the other end of our ticket. It would do my soul good to do that thing. It would enable us to teach them that, inasmuch as we select one of their own number to carry out our principles, we are free from the charge that we mean to do more than we say.

*The Bible! the Bible! we hail it with joy;
Its truths and its glories our tongues shall employ;
We'll sing of its triumphs, we'll tell of its worth,
And send its glad tidings afar o'er the earth.*
—Anonymous.



THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 30

Let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil.
Psalms 40:14.

The Best Wish You Could Make.

(To a lady whose husband he had pardoned, and after she had said, "Good-by. Mr. Lincoln. I shall probably never see you again till we meet in heaven.")

I am afraid, with all my troubles, I shall never get to the resting-place you speak of; but if I do, I am sure I shall find you. That you wish me to get there is, I believe, the best wish you could make for me. Good-by.

(Immediately after, to Mr. Speed.)

It is more than many can often say, that in doing right one has made two people happy in one day. Die when I may, I want it said of me by those who know me best, that I have always plucked a thistle and planted a flower when I thought a flower would grow.

*Lend a helping hand, my brother;
Sister, cheer the saddened one,
Earth is full of sorrow's children,
God has plenty to be done.
He has placed thee here for something;
Some great purpose to be wrought:
See thou dost not lose thy crowning,
When rewards cannot be bought.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

OCTOBER 31 (Hallowe'en)

He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. Psalms 91:3.

Nothing But a Noise.

(To F. B. Carpenter, in 1864.)

Some years ago a couple of emigrants fresh from the Emerald Isle, seeking labor, were making their way toward the West. Coming suddenly, one evening, upon a pond of water, they were greeted with a grand chorus of bullfrogs—a kind of music they had never before heard. “B-a-u-m!”—“B-a-u-m!” Overcome with terror, they clutched their “shillalahs” and crept cautiously forward, straining their eyes in every direction to catch a glimpse of the enemy; but he was not to be found! At last a happy idea seized the foremost one; he sprang to his companion and exclaimed, “And sure, Jamie, it is my opinion it’s nothing but a noise!”

*Hallowe'en comes but once a year,
Over at my house you will find good cheer;
I shall certainly expect you at quarter to eight,
Later than that ghosts will have fastened the gate.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 1

Cast me not off in the time of old age: forsake me not when my strength falleth. Psalms 71:9.

General Winfield Scott Retired.

(Order Issued November 1, 1861.)

On the first day of November, A. D. 1861, upon his application to the President of the United States, Brevet Lieutenant General Winfield Scott is ordered to be placed, and hereby is placed upon the list of retired officers of the Army of the United States, without reduction in his current pay, subsistences, or allowances. The American people will hear with sadness and deep emotion that General Scott has withdrawn from the active control of the army, while the President and the unanimous Cabinet express their own and the Nation's sympathy in his personal affliction, and their profound sense of the important public services rendered by him to his country during his long and brilliant career, among which will ever be gratefully distinguished his faithful devotion to the Constitution, the Union, and the Flag when assailed by a parricidal rebellion.

*The fame that a man wins himself is best;
That he may call his own; honors put on him
Make him no more a man than his clothes do,
Which are as soon taken off; for in the warmth
The heat comes from the body, not the weeds;
So man's true fame must strike from his own deeds.*
—Middletou.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 2

He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster. Proverbs 18:9.

Squirring and Crawling About.

(From a letter written in 1851 to his step-brother, John Johnson, whom he had often aided.)

What can you do in Missouri better than here? Is the land any richer? Can you there, any more than here, raise corn and wheat and oats without work? Will anybody there, any more than here, do your work for you? If you intend to go to work, there is no better place than right where you are; if you do not intend to go to work, you cannot get along anywhere. Squirring and crawling about from place to place can do no good. You have raised no crop this year, and what you really want is to sell the land, get the money, and spend it. Part with the land you have, and, my life upon it, you will never after own a spot big enough to bury you in. Half you get for the land you will spend in moving to Missouri, and the other half you will eat, drink, and wear out, and no foot of land will be bought. Now, I feel it my duty to have no hand in such a piece of foolery.

*O wad some power the giffle gie us
To see oursel's as ithers see us!
I: wad frae monie a blunder free us,
An' foolish notion.*

—Burns.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 3

Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12:13.

Keep on Doing Our Duty.

(In response to George H. Stuart, chairman, Bishop Jones, Chaplain McCabe, and other members of the Christian Commission, at the White House, in 1864.)

Gentlemen, I owe no thanks for what you have done. You owe me no thanks for what I have done. You have done your duty; I have done mine. Let us keep on doing our duty, and by the help of God we may yet save our country. I shall be glad to take each of you by the hand.

*The world may scorn me, if they choose—I care
But little for their scoffings. I may sink
For moments, but I rise again, nor shrink
From doing what the faithful heart inspires.
I will not flatter, fawn, nor crouch, nor wink
At what high-mounted wealth or power desires:
I have a loftier aim to which my soul aspires.*

—Perceval.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 4

Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing. Proverbs 18:22.

I Now Thee Wed.

(Words repeated at his marriage as he placed the ring on the finger of his bride, Miss Mary Todd, at Springfield, Illinois, November 4, 1842.)

With this ring I now thee wed, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow.

(From a letter written May 18, 1843, to J. F. Speed, of Louisville, Kentucky, his close personal friend.)

We are not keeping nouse, but boarding at the Globe Tavern, which is very well kept now by a widow of the name of Beck. Boarding costs us only four dollars a week. . . . I most heartily wish that you and your Fanny will not fail to come. Just let us know the time, a week in advance, and we will have a room prepared for you, and we'll all be merry together for a while.

*Marriage is the golden chain
That binds two hearts together
For pleasure or for pain,
For storm or pleasant weather.*

—Chas. Benj. Manley.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 5

Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel. Proverbs 27:9.

Conferred Essential Service.

(To Honorable Robert Dale Owen, who submitted a paper on amnesty a few weeks before the President's message for 1863, to which was appended the Proclamation of Amnesty.)

Mr. Owen, it is due to you that I should say that you have conferred a very essential service, both upon me and the country, by the preparation of this paper. It contains that which it was exceedingly important that I should know, but which, if left to myself, I never should have known, because I have not the time necessary for such an examination of authorities as a review of this kind involves. And I want to say, secondly, if I had the time, I could not have done the work so well as you have done it.

*O friends, be men and let your hearts be strong,
And let no warrior in the heat of fight
Do what may bring him shame in others' eyes;
For more of those who shrink from shame are safe
Than fall in battle, while with those who flee
Is neither glory nor reprieve from death.*

—Bryant.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 6

Sailing was now dangerous. Acts 27 : 9.

Must Change Our Tactics.

(To Mr. Carpenter, in 1864.)

It had got to be midsummer, 1862. Things had gone on from bad to worse, until I felt that we had reached the end of our rope on the plan of operations we had been pursuing; that we had about played our last card, and must change our tactics or lose the game! I now determined upon the adoption of the emancipation policy, and, without consultation with, or the knowledge of the Cabinet, I prepared the original draft of the proclamation, and, after much anxious thought, called a Cabinet meeting upon the subject. This was the last of July, or the first part of the month of August, 1862. This Cabinet meeting took place, I think, upon a Saturday. All were present except Mr. Blair, the Postmaster-General, who was absent at the opening of the discussion, but came in subsequently. I said to the Cabinet that I had resolved upon this step, and had not called them together to ask their advice, but to lay the subject-matter of a proclamation before them; suggestions as to which would be in order, after they had heard it read.

*Never or now! cries the blood of a nation
Poured on the turf where the red rose should bloom.
Now is the day and the hour of salvation;
Never or now! peals the trumpet of doom.*

—Holmes.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 7

Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? . . . who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine. Proverbs 23: 29, 30.

I Am a Practical Prohibitionist.

(Said in speeches when campaigning in Illinois with Major J. B. Merwin in 1854-55, for Neal Dow State Prohibition.)

This legalized liquor traffic, as carried on in the saloons and grogshops, is the tragedy of civilization. Good citizenship demands and requires that what is right should not only be made known, but be made prevalent; that what is evil should not only be detected and defeated, but destroyed. The saloon has proven itself to be the greatest foe, the most blighting curse of our modern civilization, and this is the reason why I am a practical Prohibitionist. We must not be satisfied until the public sentiment of this State and the individual conscience shall be instructed to look upon the saloon-keeper and the liquor-seller, with all the license earth can give him, as simply and only a privileged malefactor—a criminal.

*Let us rise in holy wrath, Christian soldiers,
Crush the evil 'neath the heel of our might!
Counting cost, no longer wait,
Forward, manhood of the state!
For in God our strength is great
For the right.*

—E. S. Lorens.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 8

The vile person will speak villany, and his heart will work iniquity, to practice hypocrisy, and to utter error. Isaiah 32:6.

The Base Alloy of Hypocrisy.

(From a private letter written in 1854.)

I acknowledge your rights and my obligations under the Constitution in regard to your slaves. I confess I hate to see the poor creatures hunted down and caught and carried back to their stripes and unrequited toil, but I keep quiet. You ought to appreciate how much the great body of the people of the North crucify their feelings in order to maintain their loyalty to the Constitution and the Union. I do oppose the *extension* of slavery because my judgment and feelings so prompt me, and I am under no obligations to the contrary. As a nation we began by declaring, "All men are created equal." We now practically read it, "All men are created equal except negroes." When it comes to making wholesale exceptions I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty, where despotism can be taken pure without the base alloy of hypocrisy.

*It matters little where I was born,
If my parents were rich or poor;
Whether they shrank at the cold world's scorn,
Or walked in the pride of wealth secure;
But whether I live an honest man,
And hold my integrity firm in my clutch,
I tell you, my brother, as plain as I am,
It matters much!*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 9

It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. II. Corinthians 12:1.

No Taint of Personal Triumph.

(Extract from a speech at a serenade by a club of Pennsylvanians, the night of second election, November 9, 1864.)

I cannot say at this hour what has been the result of the election, but whatever it may have been, and I have no desire to modify this opinion, all who have labored to-day in behalf of the Union organization have wrought for the best interests of the country and the world, not only for the present, but for all future ages. I am thankful to God for the approval of the people; but while deeply grateful for this mark of their confidence in me, if I know my heart, my gratitude is free from any taint of personal triumph. I do not impugn the motives of any one opposed to me. It is no pleasure to me to triumph over any one, but I give thanks to the Almighty for the evidences of the people's resolution to stand by free government and the right of humanity.

*To love is ever to ascend;
' Oh, let our love, like thine,
The nation's highest good attend,
And with thy spirit shine!
Thus shall our tribute catch from thee
Its worthiest, noblest, best,
And one united country see
Thy life's divine bequest.*

—Mary M. Adams.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 10

Such things must needs be. Mark 13 : 7.

The Election a Necessity.

(From a response to a serenade by the various Lincoln and Johnson clubs of the District of Columbia, November 10, 1864.)

It has long been a grave question whether any government, not too strong for the liberties of its people, can be strong enough to maintain its existence in great emergencies. On this point the present rebellion brought our Government to a severe test, and a Presidential election occurring in a regular course during the rebellion added not a little to the strain. If the loyal people, united, were put to the utmost of their strength by the rebellion, must they not fail when divided and partially paralyzed by a political war among themselves? But the election was a necessity. We cannot have free government without elections; and if the rebellion could force us to forego or postpone a National election, it might fairly claim to have already conquered and ruined us. The strife of the election is but human nature practically applied to the facts of the case. What has occurred in this case must ever reoccur in similar cases.

*When a patriot falls, must he fall in the battle,
Where the cannon's loud roar is his only death rattle?
There 's a warfare where none but the morally brave
Stand nobly and firmly, their country to save
'T is the war of opinion, where few can be found
On the mountain of principle, guarding the ground,
With vigilant eyes ever watching the foes
Who are prowling around them, and aiming their blows.*

—Mrs. Dana.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 11

Be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts. Haggai 2: 4.

Vote Sound and Strong We Are.

(From a response to a serenade by the various Lincoln and Johnson Clubs of the District of Columbia, November 10, 1864. Continued from preceding page.)

Human nature will not change. In the future great National trial, compared with the men of this, we shall have as weak and as strong, as silly and as wise, as bad and as good. Let us, therefore, study the incidents of this as philosophy to learn wisdom from, and none of them as wrongs to be avenged. But the election, along with its incidents and undesirable strife, has done good, too. It has demonstrated that a people's government can sustain a national election in the midst of a great civil war. Until now it has not been known to the world that this was a possibility. It shows, also, how sound and strong we are. It shows that even among the candidates of the same party, he who is most devoted to the Union and most opposed to treason can receive most of the people's votes. It shows, also, to an extent not yet known, that we have more men now than we had when the war began.

*United in one common purpose;
Inspired by one common tie,
Like brothers advance them together,
Achieving a grand destiny.
Sweep on like a torrent, resistless,
To purge and to cleanse in thy might—
Corruption in arrogant splendor
Must bend to the law and the right.*
—Silas G. Pratt.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 12

I will make a man more precious than fine gold. Isaiah 13:12.

Better Than Gold.

(From a response to a serenade by the various Lincoln and Johnson clubs of the District of Columbia. November 10, 1864. Continued from preceding page.)

Gold is good in its place; but living, brave, and patriotic men are better than gold. But the rebellion continues, and, now that the election is over, may not all have a common interest to reunite in a common effort to save our common country? For my own part, I have striven and shall strive to avoid placing any obstacle in the way. So long as I have been here, I have not willingly planted a thorn in any man's bosom. While I am duly sensible to the high compliment of a reflection, and duly grateful, as I trust, to Almighty God for having directed my countrymen to a right conclusion, as I think, for their good, it adds nothing to my satisfaction that any other man may be disappointed by the result. May I ask those who have not differed with me to join with me in this same spirit to those who have?

*Good friends are better than gold!
I find it sweet as I grow old
To prove in you this happy truth
To which I held in early youth,
And having proved, shall ever hold:
Good friends are better than fine gold!*

—Miss Grannis.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 13

I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? Nehemiah 6: 3.

Lost My Apple Overboard.

(To a farmer who went to the President complaining that Union soldiers in passing his place had taken his hay and horse, and wanted his claim considered immediately.)

Why, my good sir, if I should attempt to consider every such individual case I should find work for twenty Presidents! In my early days I knew one, Jack Chase, who was a lumberman on the Illinois, and, when steady and sober, the best raftsman on the river. It was quite a trick twenty-five years ago to take the logs over the rapids, but he was skillful with a raft, and always kept her straight in the channel. Finally a steamer was put on, and Jack—he's dead now, poor fellow!—was made captain of her. He always used to take the wheel going through the rapids. One day, when the boat was plunging and wallowing along the boiling current, and Jack's utmost vigilance was being exercised to keep her in the narrow channel, a boy pulled his coat-tail and hailed him with, "Say, Mister Captain! I wish you would just stop your boat a minute—I've lost my apple overboard."

*He is so full of pleasant anecdote,
So rich, so gay, so poignant in his wit,
Time vanishes before him as he speaks,
And ruddy morning through the lattice peeps.*

—Miss Ballie.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 14

The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil. Proverbs 20:30.

Aristocracy.

(In reply to a charge made in the campaign of 1840 by Colonel Dick Taylor, a Democrat, that the Whigs were lords and aristocrats. Lincoln was the Whig candidate for the Illinois Legislature.)

I was a very poor boy, hired on a flatboat at eight dollars a month, and had only one pair of breeches, and they were buckskin; and if you know the nature of buckskin when wet, and dried by the sun—they shrink, and mine kept shrinking until they left several inches of my legs bare between the tops of my socks and the lower part of my breeches; and whilst I was growing taller they were becoming shorter, and so much tighter that they left a blue streak around my legs that can be seen to this day. If you call this aristocracy, I plead guilty to the charge.

*The man who sped the woodman's team,
And deepest sunk the plowman's share,
And pushed the laden raft astream,
Of fate before him unaware—*

*This was the hand that knew to swing
The ax—since thus would Freedom train
Her son—and made the forest ring,
And drove the wedge, and tolled amain.*

—Edmund Clarence Stedman.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 15

Find out knowledge of witty inventions. Proverbs 8: 12.

The Abutment on the Other Side.

(An illustration concerning the breach between the Northern and Southern wings of the Democratic party.)

I once knew a sound churchman by the name of Brown, who was a member of a very sober and pious committee having in charge the erection of a bridge over a dangerous and rapid river. Several architects failed, and at last Brown said he had a friend named Jones who had built several bridges and undoubtedly could build that one. So Mr. Jones was called in. "Can you build this bridge?" inquired the committee. "Yes," replied Jones, "or any other. I could build a bridge to the infernal regions, if necessary!" The committee were shocked, and Brown felt called upon to defend his friend. "I know Jones so well," said he, "and he is so honest a man and so good an architect, that if he states soberly and positively that he can build a bridge to—to—, why, I believe it; but I feel bound to say that I have my doubts about the abutment on the infernal side." So when the politicians told me that the Northern and Southern wings of Democracy could be harmonized, why, I believed them, of course; but I always had my doubts about the "abutment" on the *other* side.

*With short plummet Heaven's deep well we sound,
That vast abyss where human wit is drown'd;
In our small skiff we must not launch too far—
We here but coasters, not discoverers, are.*

Dryden.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 16

Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord. Exodus 31:15.

Observance of the Sabbath.

(The following order was issued November 16, 1862.)

The President, Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, desires and enjoins the orderly observance of the Sabbath by the officers and men in the military and naval service. The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors, a becoming deference to the best sentiment of a Christian people, and a due regard for the Divine Will, demand that Sunday labor in the army and navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity. The discipline and character of the National forces should not suffer, nor the cause they defend be imperiled by the profanation of the day or name of the Most High. "At this time of public distress," adopting the words of Washington in 1776, "men may find enough to do in the service of God and their country without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality." The first general order issued by the Father of his Country, after the Declaration of Independence, indicates the spirit in which our institutions were founded, and should ever be defended. "The general hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country."

*A Sabbath well spent
Brings a week of content,
And plenty of health for to-morrow.
But a Sabbath profaned,
No matter what 's gained,
Is a certain forerunner of sorrow.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 17

There is no wrong in mine hands. I. Chronicles 12 : 17.

The Justness of My Intentions.

(Said in an interview, November, 1860.)

I know the justness of my intentions, and the utter groundlessness of the pretended fears of the men who are filling the country with their clamor. If I go into the Presidency, they will find me as I am on record, nothing less, nothing more. My declarations have been made to the world without reservation. They have been often repeated, and now self-respect demands of me and the party which has elected me that, when threatened, I should be silent.

*The state is out of time; distracting fears
And jealous doubts jar in our public counsels;
Amid the wealthy city, murmurs rise,
Loud railings and reproach on those that rule,
With open scorn of government; hence credit
And public trust 'twixt man and man are broke,
The golden streams of commerce are withheld
Which fed the wants of needy hinds and artisans,
Who therefore curse the great and threat rebellion.*

—Rowe.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 18

I have . . . used similitudes. Hosea 12:10.

Spotted Animals.

(Related to some gentlemen in 1862, who thought the interests of the country required an entire reconstruction of the Cabinet, Mr. Cameron, Secretary of War, having already resigned.)

Gentlemen, when I was a young man I used to know very well one Joe Wilson, who built himself a log cabin not far from where I lived. Joe was very fond of eggs and chickens, and he took a good deal of pains in fitting up a poultry shed. Having at length got together a choice lot of young fowls—of which he was very proud—he began to be very much annoyed by the depredation of those little black and white spotted animals, which it is not necessary to name. One night Joe was awakened by an unusual cackling and fluttering among his chickens. Getting up, he crept out to see what was going on. It was a moonlight night, and he soon caught sight of half a dozen of the little pests, which with their dam were running in and out of the shadow of the shed. Very wrathful, Joe put a double charge into his old musket and thought he would “clean” out the whole tribe at one shot. Somehow he only killed *one*, and the balance scampered off across the field. In telling the story, Joe would always pause here and hold his nose. “Why didn’t you follow them up and kill the rest?” inquired the neighbors. “Blast it,” said Joe, “why, it was eleven weeks before I got over killing *one*. If you want any more skirmishing in that line you can just do it yourselves.”

*A tale should be judicious, clear, succinct;
The language plain, and incidents well link'd;
Tell not as new what everybody knows,
And, new or old, hasten to a close:
There, cent'ring in a focus round and neat,
Let all your rays of information meet.*

—Cowper.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 19

Of a truth many houses shall be desolate. *Isaiah 5:9.*

Hearts and Homes Yet to be Desolated.

(Said on his way to the Gettysburg National Cemetery, November 19, 1863, to an old gentleman going to visit the grave of an only son who was killed there. See Gettysburg address, May 30.)

You have been called on to make a terrible sacrifice for the Union, and a visit to that spot, I fear, will open your wounds afresh. But, oh, my dear sir, if we had reached the end of such sacrifices, and had nothing left for us to do but to place garlands on the graves of those who have already fallen, we could give thanks even amidst our tears; but when I think of the sacrifices of life yet to be offered, and the hearts and homes yet to be made desolate before this dreadful war is over, my heart is like lead within me, and I feel at times like hiding in the deep darkness.

*O Gettysburg! thy living dead
Speak still across the years,
And by their voice our hearts are led
Above all passing fears!
But keep, O hills! one record true
And one great captain's name!
Oh, then shall all men look to you
For nation's deathless fame.*

—*Mary M. Adams.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 20

Let brotherly love continue. Hebrews 13:1.

Brothers of a Common Country.

(Said at a political meeting at Springfield, Illinois, November 20, 1860, where there was rejoicing over the November election.)

I rejoice with you in the success which has so far attended the Republican cause, yet in all our rejoicing let us neither express nor cherish any hard feelings toward any citizen who by his vote differed with us. Let us at all times remember that all American citizens are brothers of a common country, and should dwell together in the bonds of fraternal feeling.

*Land of the forest and the rock,
Of dark blue lake and mighty river,
Of mountains reared on high to mock
The storm's career and lightning shock,
My own green land forever!
Oh, never may a son of thine,
Where'er his wandering feet incline,
Forget the sky that bent above
His childhood like a dream of love!*

—Whittier.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 21

I have lost my children, and am desolate. *Isaiah 49: 21.*

A Costly Sacrifice.

(Letter written November 21, 1864, to Mrs. Bixby, a widow, of Boston, who lost five sons in the war.)

I have been shown, in the files of the War Department, a statement of the Adjutant-General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming; but I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

*Lord, be thou near and cheer my lonely way;
With thy sweet peace my aching bosom fill;
Scatter my cares and fears, my griefs away,
And be it mine each day
To love and please thee still.*

—*Pierre Corneille.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 22

Now also when I am old and grey-headed, O God forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation. Psalms 71:18.

Beyond the Psalmist's Limits.

(Letter written November 21, 1864, to Deacon John Phillips, one hundred and four years old.)

I have heard of the incident at the polls, in your town, in which you acted so honorable a part, and I take the liberty of writing to you to express my personal gratitude for the compliment paid me by the suffrage of a citizen so venerable. The example of such devotion to civic duties, in one whose days have already been extended an average lifetime beyond the psalmist's limits, cannot but be valuable and fruitful. It is not for myself only, but for the country which you have, in your sphere, served so long and so well, that I thank you.

*E'en down to old age, all my people shall prove
My grace is eternal, unbounded my love;
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.*

—Kennedy.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 23

Thy merchants were the great men of the earth. Revelation 18:23.

Great Men.

(To Mr. F. B. Carpenter, in 1864.)

Great men have various estimates. When Daniel Webster made his tour through the West, years ago, he visited Springfield among other places, where great preparations were made to receive him. As the procession was going through the town, a barefooted little darky boy pulled the sleeve of a man named T., and asked what the folks were all doing down the street. "Why, Jack," was the reply, "the biggest man in the world is coming." Now there lived in Springfield a man by the name of G., a very corpulent man. Jack darted off down the street, but presently returned with a very disappointed air. "Well, did you see him?" inquired T. "Ye-es," returned Jack, "but laws—he hain't half as big as old G."

*How big was Alexander, pa,
That people call him great?
Was he like Goliath tall?
His spear a hundredweight?*

*Was he so large that he could stand
Like some tall steeple high,
And while his feet were on the ground,
His hand could touch the sky?*

*Oh, no, my child: about as large
As I or Uncle James;
'T was not his stature made him great,
But the greatness of his name.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 24 (Thanksgiving Day)

Thou crownest the year with thy goodness. Psalms 65:11.

Another Year of Blessings.

(From Thanksgiving Proclamation, issued October 20, 1864.)

It has pleased Almighty God to prolong our National life another year, defending us with his guardian care against unfriendly designs from abroad and vouchsafing to us in his mercy many and signal victories over the enemy, who is of our own household. It has also pleased our Heavenly Father to favor as well our citizens in their homes as our soldiers in their camps, and our sailors on the rivers and seas, with unusual health. He has largely augmented our free population by emancipation and by immigration, while he has opened to us new sources of wealth, and has crowned the labor of our workingmen in every department of industry with abundant rewards. Moreover, he has been pleased to animate and inspire our minds and hearts with fortitude, courage, and resolution sufficient for the great trial of civil war into which we had been brought by our adherence as a Nation to the cause of freedom and humanity, and to afford to us reasonable hopes of an ultimate and happy deliverance from all our dangers and afflictions. Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do hereby appoint and set apart the last Thursday in November next as a day which I desire to be observed by all my fellow-citizens, wherever they may be, as a day of thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God, the beneficent Creator and Ruler of the universe.

*God of our fathers, known of old—
Lord of our farflung battle line—
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget.*

—Rudyard Kipling.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 25

I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. Acts 27:10.

On a Chase.

(To Governor Morgan, of New York, in 1863.)

We are a good deal like whalers who have been long on a chase. At last we have got our harpoon fairly into the monster; but we must now look how we steer, or with one *flip* of his tail he will yet send us all into eternity.

(Said to Commissioner Dole as to his chances for reelection, after calling for 500,000 more men in 1864.)

It matters not what becomes of me, we must have the men! If I go down, I intend to go like the *Cumberland*, with my colors flying!

*There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which taken at the flood leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat,
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures.*

—Shakespeare.

NOVEMBER 26

When they have a matter, they come unto me. Exodus 18:16.

Direct Contact With the People.

(To Colonel Charles G. Halpine, on one of the President's public days.)

The office of President is essentially a civil one. I feel—though the tax on my time is heavy—that no hours of my day are better employed than those which thus bring me again within the direct contact and atmosphere of the average of our whole people. Men moving only in an official circle are apt to become merely official—not to say arbitrary—in their ideas, and are apter and apter, with each passing day, to forget that only they hold power in a representative capacity. Now this is all wrong. I go into these promiscuous receptions of all who claim to have business with me twice each week, and every applicant for audience has to take his turn, as if waiting to be shaved in a barber's shop.

*Proudest of all earth's thrones
Is his who rules by a free people's choice;
Who, 'midst fierce party strife and battle-groans,
Hears, ever rising in harmonious tones,
A grateful people's voice.*

*Steadfast in thee we trust,
Tried as no man was ever tried before;
God made thee merciful—God keep thee just;
Be true!—and triumph over all thou must,
God bless thee evermore.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 27

Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established. Proverbs 15: 22.

My Perceptions of Responsibility and Duty.

(To Colonel Charles G. Halpine. Continued from preceding page.)

Many of the matters brought to my notice are utterly frivolous, but others are more or less of importance, and all serve to renew in me a clearer and more vivid image of that great popular assemblage out of which I sprung, and to which at the end of two years I must return. . . . I call these receptions my "public-opinion baths"; for I have but little time to read the papers and gather public opinion that way; and though they may not be pleasant in all their particulars, the effect, as a whole, is renovating and invigorating to my perceptions of responsibility and duty.

*Wherever in the world I am,
In whatso'er estate,
I have a fellowship with hearts
To keep and cultivate;
And a work of lowly love to do
For the Lord on whom I wait.*

*So I ask Thee for the daily strength,
To none that ask denied;
And a mind to blend with outward life
While keeping at thy side,
Content to fill a little space
If thou be glorified.*

—Anna L. Warring.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 28

The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers. Isaiah 44:12.

Making a Fizzle.

(Said to General Grant as they were inspecting the Dutch Gap Canal at City Point.)

Grant, do you know what this reminds me of? Out in Springfield, Illinois, there was a blacksmith named ——. One day, not having much to do, he took a piece of soft iron and attempted to weld it into an agricultural implement, but discovered that the iron would not hold out; then he concluded it would make a claw-hammer, but, having too much iron, attempted to make an ax, but decided after working awhile that there was not enough iron left. Finally, becoming disgusted, he filled the forge full of coal and brought the iron to a white heat; then with his tongs he lifted it from the bed of coals, and, thrusting it into a tub of water near by, exclaimed with an oath, "Well, if I can't make anything out of you, I will make a fizzle, anyhow." I am afraid that is about what we have done with the Dutch Gap Canal.

*But 't is some justice to ascribe to chance
The wrongs you must expect from ignorance:
None can the molds of their creation choose,
We therefore should men's ignorance excuse
When born too low to reach at things sublime:
'T is rather their misfortune than their crime.*

—Sir. W. Devenant.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 29

A man . . . skillful to work . . . and to find out every device which shall be put to him. II. Chronicles 2:14.

A Patent-Right Case.

(To a skilled architect in Springfield, Illinois.)

I have a patent-right case in court; I want you as a partner, and will divide fees. I know nothing about mechanics—never made it a study. I want you to make a list of the best works on mechanism, as I don't suppose they can be purchased here. I will furnish the money, and you can send to Chicago or New York for them. I want you to come to my house one night each week and give me instruction.

*Men of thought! be up and stirring
Night and day:
Sow the seed—withdraw the curtain—
Clear the way!
Men of action, aid and cheer them,
As ye may!
There 's a fount about to stream,
There 's a light about to beam,
There 's a warmth about to glow,
There 's a flower about to blow:
There 's a midnight blackness changing
Into gray;
Men of thought and men of action,
Clear the way!*

—Charles Mackay.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

NOVEMBER 30

Let them take a lump of figs, and lay it for a plaster upon the boil, and he shall recover. Isalah 38:21.

A Cure for Boils.

(To Mr. Blair, Postmaster-General.)

Blair, did you know that fright has sometimes proven a cure for boils? Not long ago, when Colonel ——, with his cavalry, was at the front and the Rebs were making things rather lively for us, the Colonel was ordered out to a reconnoissance. He was troubled at the time with a big boil where it made horseback riding decidedly uncomfortable. He finally dismounted and ordered the troops forward without him. Soon he was startled by the rapid reports of pistols, and the helter-skelter approach of his troops in full retreat before a yelling rebel force. He forgot everything but the yells, sprang into his saddle, and made capital time over the fences and ditches till safe within the lines. The pain from the boil was gone, and the boil, too, and the Colonel swore that there was no cure for boils so sure as fright from rebel yells.

*They talk of short-liv'd pleasure—be it so—
Pain dies as quickly; stern hard-featur'd pain
Expires, and lets her weary prisoner go.
The fiercest agonies have shortest reign.*

—Bryant

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 1

Remember this, and show yourselves men. Isaiah 46:8.

We Cannot Escape History.

(Extract from the second annual message to Congress,
December 1, 1862.)

We cannot escape history. We of this Congress and the administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation. We say we are for the Union. The world will not forget that we say this. We know how to save the Union. The world knows we do know how to save it. We—even *we here*—hold the power and bear the responsibility. In *giving* freedom to the *slave* we *assure* freedom to the *free*—honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve. We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of earth.

*For humanity sweeps onward; where to-day the martyr stands,
On the morrow crouches Judas with the silver in his hands;
Far in front the cross stands ready and the crackling fagots burn,
While the hooting mob of yesterday in silent awe return
To glean up the scattered ashes into History's golden urn.*

—James Russell Lowell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 2

Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Matthew 15:13.

John Brown.

(From the Cooper Institute speech, New York City, February 20, 1860. John Brown was executed December 2, 1859.)

John Brown's effort was peculiar. It was not slave insurrection. It was an attempt by white men to get up a revolt among slaves, in which the slaves refused to participate. In fact, it was so absurd that the slaves, with all their ignorance, saw plainly enough that it could not succeed. That affair, in its philosophy, corresponds with the many attempts related in history at the assassination of kings and emperors. An enthusiast broods over the oppression of a people till he fancies himself commissioned by heaven to liberate them. He ventures the attempt, which ends in little else than his own execution.

*Against this crime of crimes he fought and fell;
He freed a race and found a prison cell;
In mid-air hung upon the gibbet's tree,
But lived and died, thank God, to make men free.
And dusky men the ages down will tell
For what he fought, and how he bravely fell;
And dim the jewels in each earthly crown,
Beside the luster of thy name, John Brown.*

—Joseph G. Waters.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 3

Thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Psalms 128: 2.

A Generous and Prosperous System.

(From the first annual message to Congress, December 3, 1861.)

There is not of necessity any such thing as the free hired laborer being fixed to that condition for life. Many independent men everywhere in these States, a few years back in their lives, were hired laborers. The prudent, penniless beggar in the world labors for wages awhile, saves a surplus with which to buy tools or land for himself, then labors on his own account another while, and at length hires another beginner to help him. This is the just and generous and prosperous system, which opens the way to all, gives hope to all, and consequent energy and progress and improvement of condition to all.

*Here, brothers, secure from all turmoil and danger,
We reap what we sow, for the soil is our own.
We spread hospitality's board for the stranger
And care not a fig for the king on his throne;
We never know want, for we live by our labor,
And in it contentment and happiness find.*

—George P. Morris.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 4

Changes and war are against me. Job 10:17.

Start a Public Sentiment.

(Said to Senator Clark, of New Hampshire, as the day of his second inauguration approached.)

Can't you and others start a public sentiment in favor of making no changes in offices except for good and sufficient cause? It seems as though the bare thought of going through again what I did the first year here, would *crush* me.

(To another he said:)

I have made up my mind to make very few changes in the offices in my gift for my second term. I think now that I will not remove a single man except for delinquency. To remove a man is very easy, but when I go to fill his place, there are *twenty* applicants, and of these I must make *nineteen* enemies.

(To another:)

Sitting here, where all the avenues to public patronage seem to come together in a knot, it does seem to me that our people are fast approaching the point where it can be said that *seven-eighths* of them are trying to find how to live at the expense of the other eighth.

*Be still, sad heart! and cease repining;
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining;
Thy fate is the common fate of all,
Into each life some rain must fall,
Some days must be dark and dreary.*

—Longfellow.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 5

Money answereth all things. Ecclesiastes 10:19.

Origin of the Greenback.

(To colonel Edmund D. Taylor, of Chicago, Illinois, December, 1864.)

I have long determined to make public the origin of the greenback, and tell the world that it is one of Dick Taylor's creations. You have always been friendly to me, and when troublous times fell upon us, and my shoulders, though broad and willing, were weak and myself surrounded by such circumstances and such people that I knew not whom to trust, then I said in my extremity, "I will send for Colonel Taylor; he will know what to do." I think it was in January, 1862, on or about the 16th, that I did so. You came, and I said to you, "What shall we do?" Said you, "Why, issue treasury notes bearing no interest, printed on the best banking paper. Issue enough to pay off the army expenses, and declare it a legal tender." Chase thought it a hazardous thing, but we finally accomplished it, and gave to the people of this Republic the greatest blessing they ever had—their own paper to pay off their own debts. It is due to you, the father of the present greenback, that the people should know it, and I take great pleasure in making it known. How many times I have laughed at you telling me plainly that I was too lazy to be anything but a lawyer.

*Green be thy back upon thee!
Thou pledge of happier days,
When bloody-handed treason
No more its head shall raise;
Pledge of the people's credit,
To carry on the war
By furnishing the sinews
In a currency et par.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 6

A man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him. Ecclesiastes 10:14.

Maintain the Contest Indefinitely.

(From the fourth annual message to Congress, December 6, 1864.)

The important fact remains demonstrated that we have more men *now* than we had when the war began; that we are not exhausted nor in process of exhaustion; that we are *gaining* strength, and may, if need be, maintain the contest indefinitely. This as to men. Material resources are now more complete and abundant than ever. The natural resources, then, are unexhausted, and, as we believe, inexhaustible. The public purpose to reestablish and maintain the National authority is unchanged, and, as we believe, unchangeable. The manner of continuing the effort remains to choose. On careful consideration of all the evidence accessible, it seems to me that no attempt at negotiation with the insurgent leader would result in any good. He would accept nothing short of the severance of the Union—precisely what we will not and cannot give. His declarations to this effect are explicit and oft-repeated. He does not attempt to deceive us. He affords us no excuse to deceive ourselves.

*Oh, the bliss of human blindness—just to know we do not know
What is hid from us in kindness, both of sorrow and of woe.
'T would becloud our every blessing to be forced to know to-day
All the trials that await us, all the heartaches by the way.*

—Rev. J. M. Fowler.—

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 7

We looked for peace, but no good came. Jeremiah 8 : 15.

The Crisis Came.

(From the third annual message to Congress, December 8, 1863.)

According to our political system, as a matter of civil administration, the general Government had no lawful power to effect emancipation in any State, and for a long time it had been hoped that the rebellion could be suppressed without resorting to it as a military measure. It was all the while deemed possible that the necessity for it might come, and that if it should, the crisis of the contest would then be presented. It came, and, as was anticipated, it was followed by dark and doubtful days. Eleven months have now passed, we are permitted to take another view. The rebel borders are still pressed further back, and by the complete opening of the Mississippi, the country dominated by the rebellion is divided into distinct parts with no practical communication between them. Tennessee and Arkansas have been substantially cleared of insurgent control, and influential citizens in each, owners of slaves and advocates of slavery at the beginning of the rebellion, now declare openly for emancipation in their respective States.

*It is coming—it is nigh!
Stand your homes and altars by,
On your own free threshold die.*

*Freedom's soil has only place
For a free and fearless race—
None for traitors false and base.*

*With one heart and with one mouth
Let the North speak to the South;
Speak the word befitting both.*

Whittier.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 8

The Lord raiseth them that are bowed down. Psalms 140:8.

Once Slaves, Now Soldiers.

(From the third annual message to Congress, December 8, 1863.)

Of those who were slaves at the beginning of the rebellion, full one hundred thousand are now in the United States military service, about one-half of which number actually bear arms in the ranks, thus giving the double advantage of taking so much labor from the insurgent cause and supplying the places which otherwise must be filled with so many white men. So far as tested, it is difficult to say that they are not as good soldiers as any. No servile insurrection or tendency to violence or cruelty has marked the measures of emancipation and arming the blacks. These measures have been much discussed in foreign countries, and, contemporary with such discussion, the tone of public sentiment there is much improved. At home the same measures have been fully discussed, supported, criticised, and denounced, and the annual elections following are highly encouraging to those whose official duty it is to bear the country through this great trial. Thus we have the new reckoning. The crisis which threatened to divide the friends of the Union is past.

*Here the free spirit of mankind at length
Throws its last fetters off; and who shall place
A limit to the giant's unchained strength?
Or curb his swiftness in the forward race?*
—Bryant.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 9

Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven. Luke 6:37.

Full Pardon Granted.

(Extract from Proclamation of Amnesty, issued December 8, 1863.)

Therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do proclaim, declare, and make known to all persons who have directly or by implication participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, that a full pardon is hereby granted to them and each of them, with restoration of all rights and property, except as to slaves, and in property cases where rights of third parties shall have intervened, and upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an oath, and thenceforward keep and maintain such oath inviolate; and which oath shall be registered for permanent preservation.

*And now the Johnnies and the Yanks
Are brothers true, forever;
The only rivalry, to see
Which makes the best endeavor
To help our glorious country on,
The sacred home of liberty,
And hold aloft in foremost ranks
Our banner of the free.*

—Redington.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 10

Thou dost establish equity. Psalms 99:4.

Central Ideas.

(Extract from a speech at a banquet, Chicago, Illinois, December 10, 1856, after the Presidential campaign.)

Our Government rests in public opinion. Whoever can change public opinion can change the Government, practically, just so much. Public opinion on any subject always has a "central idea," from which all its minor thoughts radiate. That "central idea" in our political public opinion at the beginning was and until recently has continued to be "the equality of men." And although it has always submitted patiently to whatever of inequality there seemed to be as a matter of actual necessity, its constant working has been a steady progress toward the practical equality of all men. . . . Let bygones be bygones; let party differences as nothing be, and with steady eye on the real issue, let us reinaugurate the good old central ideas of the Republic. We can do it. The human heart is with us; God is with us. We shall again be able to declare not that "all the States as States are equal," nor yet that "all citizens as citizens are equal," but to renew the broader, better declaration, including both these and much more, that "all men are created equal."

*What God in his infinite wisdom designed,
And, armed with the weapons of thunder,
Not all the earth's despots or factions combined
Have the power to conquer or sunder.*

*The union of lakes, the union of lands,
The union of States none can sever,
The union of hearts, the union of hands,
And the flag of our Union forever.*

—G. P. Morris.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 11

They shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all. Ezekiel 37: 22.

Home of One National Family.

(Extract from second annual message to Congress, December 1, 1862.)

A nation may be said to consist of its territory, its people, and its laws. The territory is the only part which is of certain durability. "One generation passeth away, and another cometh, but the earth abideth forever." It is of the first importance to duly consider and estimate this ever-enduring part. That portion of the earth's surface which is owned and inhabited by the people of the United States is well adapted to be the home of one national family, and it is not well adapted for two or more. Its vast extent and its variety of climate and productions are of advantage, in this age, for one people, whatever they might have been in former ages. Steam, telegraphs, and intelligence have brought these to be an advantageous combination for one united people.

*Our country!—'t is a glorious land!
With broad arms stretch'd from shore to shore,
The proud Pacific chafes her strand,
She hears the dark Atlantic roar;
And nurtur'd on her ample breast,
How many a goodly prospect lies
In Nature's wildest grandeur drest,
Enamel'd with the loveliest dyes.*

—Poeble.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 12

That they be . . . willing to communicate. I. Timothy 6:18.

They Can Communicate With Me.

(From a letter to Honorable Fernando Wood, December 12, 1862, in answer to a letter stating that he had information that the Southern States would send representatives to the next Congress, provided general amnesty was granted.)

I strongly suspect your information will prove to be groundless; nevertheless, I thank you for communicating it to me. Understanding the phrase in the paragraph above quoted, "The Southern States would send representatives to the next Congress," to be substantially the same as, "The people of the Southern States would cease resistance, and would inaugurate, submit to, and maintain the National authority within the limits of such States, under the Constitution of the United States," I say that in such case the war would cease upon the part of the United States, and that if within a reasonable time "a full and general amnesty" were necessary to such end, it would not be withheld. I do not think it would be proper now to communicate this, formally or informally, to the people of the Southern States. My belief is that they already know it, and when they choose, if ever, they can communicate with me unequivocally. Nor do I think it proper now to suspend military operations to try any experiments of negotiation.

*Though gay as mirth, as curious thoughts sedate;
As elegance polite, as power elate;
Profound in reason, and as justice clear;
Soft as compassion, yet as truth severe.*

—Savage.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 13

The multitude was divided. Acts 23:7.

Diversity of Sentiment.

(Extract from the second annual message to Congress,
December 1, 1862.)

Among the friends of the Union there is a great diversity of sentiment and of policy in regard to slavery and the African race among us. Some would perpetuate slavery; some would abolish it suddenly, and without compensation; some would abolish it gradually, and with compensation; some would remove the freed people from us, and some would retain them with us; and there are yet other minor diversities. Because of these diversities we waste much strength in struggles among ourselves. By mutual concession we should harmonize and act together. This would be compromise, but it would be compromise among the friends, and not with the enemies of the Union.

*Oh, there never was a jangle,
When the chords of time did tangle,
But the master-touch has struck the keys
That brought the music rare;
And the song that faltered lowly
Has been changed to something holy,
And the rift of light has crowned with joy
The patient singer there.*

—W. Lomas Childress.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 14

Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine. Titus 2 : 1.

Responsible Through Time and Eternity.

(Extract from the second annual message to Congress,
December 1, 1862.)

In times like the present, men should utter nothing for which they would not willingly be responsible through time and eternity. Is it true, then, that colored people can displace any more white labor by being free than by remaining slaves? If they stay in their old places, they jostle no white laborers; if they leave their old places they leave them open to white laborers. Logically, there is neither more nor less of it. Emancipation, even without deportation, would probably enhance the wages of white labor, and very surely would not reduce them. Thus the customary amount of labor would still have to be performed.

*There 's many a way a man may see
To better his condition,
And many steps a man may take
To win a good position;
But the first question he should ask,
Observing all things squarely,—
Is, when he first begins his task,
"Can I conduct it fairly?"*

*It satisfies a man to know
Upon mature reflection,
That how his fortune came to grow
Will bear a close inspection;
To gather wealth by honest ways
Is done, alas, too rarely,
And yet I'm sure it always pays
To know we 've won it fairly.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 15

A time of war, and a time of peace. Ecclesiastes 3:8.

The Quiet Past and Stormy Present.

(Extract from the second annual message to Congress,
December 1, 1862.)

I do not forget the gravity which should characterize a paper addressed to the Congress of the Nation by the chief magistrate of the Nation. Nor do I forget that some of you are my seniors, nor that many of you have more experience than I in the conduct of public affairs. Yet I trust that in view of the great responsibility resting upon me, you will perceive no want of respect to yourselves in any undue earnestness I may seem to display. . . . The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.

*Our fathers to their graves have gone,
Their strife is past, their triumph won;
But sterner trials wait the race
Which rises in their honored place—
A moral warfare with the crime
And folly of an evil time.*

*For right and liberty they fought,
The righteous government they sought,
We seek to crush monopoly,
From licensed wrong the people free,
And rid our land of greed and lust,
Our shibboleth—"In God we trust."*

*So let it be. In God's own might
We gird us for the coming fight,
And strong in him whose cause is ours,
In conflict with unholy powers,
We grasp the weapons he has given—
The light and truth and love of heaven.*

—Whittier.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 16

Behold, I have set before thee an open door. Revelation 3 : 8.

Door Has Been Open for a Year.

(Extract from fourth annual message to Congress, December 8, 1864.)

A year ago general pardon and amnesty, upon specific terms, were offered to all, except certain designated classes, and it was at the same time made known that the excepted classes were still within contemplation of special clemency. During the year many availed themselves of the general provision, and many more would, only that the signs of bad faith in some led to such precautionary measure as rendered the practical process less easy and certain. During the same time, also, special pardons have been granted to individuals of the excepted class, and no voluntary application has been denied. Thus, practically, the door has been for a full year open to all, except such as were not in condition to make free choice—that is, such as were in custody or under restraint. It is still open to all. But the time may come—probably will come—when public duty shall demand that it be closed, and that, in lieu, more rigorous measures than heretofore shall be adopted.

*Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of Truth and Falsehood, for the good or evil side.
Some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering each the bloom or blight,
Parts the goats upon the left hand and the sheep upon the right,
And the choice goes by forever 'twixt that darkness and that light.*
—Lowell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 17

Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? Exodus 32:26.

On the Lord's Side.

(To a clergyman who said he *hoped* the Lord was on our side.)

I am not at all concerned about that, for I know that the Lord is *always* on the side of the *right*. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that *I* and *this Nation* shall be on the *Lord's side*.

(On another occasion.)

I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for that day.

*He always wins who sides with God;
To him no chance is lost.
God's will is sweetest to him when
It triumphs at his cost.
All that he blesses is our good,
And unblest good is ill,
And all is right that seems most wrong,
If it be his sweet will.*

—Faber.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 18

He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth. Psalms 40: 2, 3.

One Who Has Been a Victim.

(From a temperance address, Second Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Illinois, February 22, 1842.)

It is so easy and so common to ascribe motives to men of these classes other than those they profess to act upon. The preacher, it is said, advocates temperance because he is a fanatic and desires a union of church and state; the lawyer, from his pride and vanity of hearing himself speak; and the hired agent for his salary. But when one who has long been known as a victim of intemperance bursts the fetters that have bound him and appears before his neighbors "clothed and in his right mind," a redeemed specimen of long-lost humanity, and stands up, with tears of joy trembling in his eyes, to tell of the miseries once endured, now to be endured no more forever; of his once naked and starving children, now clad and fed comfortably; of a wife, long weighed down with woe, weeping, and a broken heart, now restored to health, happiness, and a renewed affection, and how easily it is all done, once it is resolved to be done,—how simple his language!—there is a logic and an eloquence in it that few with human feelings can resist.

*We praise Thee if one clouded home,
Where broken hearts despairing pined,
Behold the sire and husband come,
Erect and in his perfect mind.*

*No more a weeping wife to mock
Till all her hopes in anguish end—
No more the trembling mind to shock,
And sink the father in the friend.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 19

He that winneth souls is wise. Proverbs 11 : 30.

How to Win Men.

(From a temperance address, Second Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Illinois, February 22, 1842. Continued from preceding page.)

If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend. Therein is a drop of honey that catches his heart, which, say what he will, is the great highroad to his reason, and which, when once gained, you will find but little trouble in convincing his judgment of the justice of your cause, if, indeed, that cause really be a just one. On the contrary, assume to dictate to his judgment, or to command his action, or to mark him as one to be shunned and despised, and he will retreat within himself, close all the avenues to his head and his heart, and though your cause be naked truth itself, transformed to the heaviest lance, harder than steel and sharper than steel can be made, and though you throw it with more than Herculean force and precision, you shall be no more able to pierce him than to penetrate the hard shell of a tortoise with a rye-straw. Such is a man, and so must he be understood by those who would lead him even to his own best interests.

*The fine and noble way to kill a foe
Is not to kill him; you with kindness may
So change him that he shall cease to be so;
And then he's slain. Sigismund used to say
His pardons put his foes to death; for when
He mortifi'd their hate, he killed them then.*

—Aloyn.

DECEMBER 20

Lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression. Isaiah 58: 1.

Sound the Moral Trump.

(From a temperance address, Second Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Illinois, February 22, 1842. Continued from preceding page.)

Whether or not the world would be vastly benefited by a total and final banishment from it of all intoxicating drinks, seems to me not now an open question. Three-fourths of mankind confess the affirmative with their tongues; and, I believe, all the rest acknowledge it in their hearts. Ought any, then, to refuse their aid in doing what the good of the whole demands? . . . There seems ever to have been a proneness in the brilliant and warm-blooded to fall into this vice. The demon of intemperance ever seems to have delighted in sucking the blood of genius and generosity. What one of us but can call to mind some relative, more promising in youth than all his fellows, who has fallen a sacrifice to his rapacity? He ever seems to have gone forth like the Egyptian angel of death, commissioned to slay, if not the first, the fairest born of every family. Shall he now be arrested in his desolating career? In that arrest, all can give aid that will; and who shall be excused that can, and will not? Far around as human breath has ever blown, he keeps our fathers, our brothers, our sons, and our friends prostrate in the chains of moral death. To all the living, everywhere, we cry, "Come, sound the moral trump, that these may arise and stand up an exceeding great army! Come from the four winds, O breath! and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." If the relative grandeur of revolutions shall be estimated by the great amount of human misery they alleviate, and the small amount they inflict, then, indeed, will this be the grandest the world shall ever have seen.

*Mourn for the thousands slain,
The youthful and the strong;
Mourn for the wine-cup's fearful reign,
And the deluded throng.*

*Mourn for the lost—but call,
Call to the strong, the free;
Rouse them to shun that dreadful fall
And to the refuge flee.* —Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 21

The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 35: 10.

Neither a Slave Nor a Drunkard.

(From a temperance address, Second Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Illinois, February 22, 1842. Continued from preceding page.)

Happy day, when, all appetites controlled, all passions subdued, all matters subjugated, mind, all-conquering mind, shall live and move, the monarch of the world! Glorious consummation! Hail, fall of fury, reign of reason, all hail! And when the victory shall be complete when there shall neither be a slave nor a drunkard on the earth—how proud the title of that *land* which may truly claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of both those revolutions that shall have ended in that victory! How nobly distinguished that people who shall have planted and nurtured to maturity both the political and moral freedom of their species!

*Until immortal mind
Unshackled walks abroad,
And chains no longer bind
The image of our God;
Until no captive one
Murmurs on land or ware,
And in his course the sun
Looks down upon no slave.*

—Whittier.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 22 (Forefathers' Day)

These . . . confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Hebrews 11:13.

Landing of the Pilgrims.

(Written December 19, 1864, to Joseph H. Choate, of New York, in answer to an invitation to be present at the annual festival of the New England Society.)

I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of your kind invitation to be present at the annual festival of the New England Society, to commemorate the landing of the Pilgrims on Thursday, the 22d of this month. My duties will not allow me to avail myself of your kindness. I cannot but congratulate you and the country, however, upon the spectacle of devoted unanimity presented by the people at home, the citizens that form our marching columns, and the citizens that fill our squadrons on the sea—all animated by the same determination to complete and perpetuate the work our fathers began and transmitted. The work of the Plymouth emigrants was the glory of their age. While we reverence their memory, let us not forget how vastly greater is our opportunity.

*My country, 't is of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing!
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring!

Our father's God, to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing!
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our King.*

—Samuel F. Smith.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 23

In controversy they shall stand in judgment. Ezekiel 44:24.

The Only Substantial Difference.

(Written from Springfield, Illinois, December 22, 1860, to Honorable Alexander H. Stephens, who afterwards was Vice President of the Confederate States.)

Your obliging answer to my short note is just received, and for which please accept my thanks. I fully appreciate the present peril the country is in, and the weight of responsibility on me. Do the people of the South really entertain fears that a Republican administration would, directly or indirectly, interfere with the slaves, or with them about the slaves? If they do, I wish to assure you, as once a friend, and still, I hope, not an enemy, that there is no cause for such fears. The South would be in no more danger in this respect than it was in the days of Washington. I suppose, however, this does not meet the case. You think slavery is right and ought to be extended, while we think it is wrong and ought to be restricted. That, I suppose, is the rub. It certainly is the only substantial difference between us.

*Workman of God! Oh, lose not heart,
But learn what God is like;
And in the darkest battle-field
Thou shalt know where to strike.*

*Blest, too, is he who can divine
Where real right doth lie,
And dares to take the side that seems
Wrong to man's blindfolded eye.*

—Faber.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 24

War a good warfare. I. Timothy 1:18.

Qualities of a Great Army.

(To the Army of the Potomac, December 22, 1862.)

I have just read your commanding general's preliminary report of the battle of Fredericksburg. Although you were not successful, the attempt was not an error, nor the failure other than an accident. The courage with which you, in an open field, maintained the contest against an entrenched foe, and the consummate skill and success with which you crossed and recrossed the river in the face of the enemy, show that you possess all the qualities of a great army, which will yet give victory to the cause of the country and of popular government. Condoling with the mourners for the dead, and sympathizing with the severely wounded, I congratulate you that the number of both is comparatively so small. I tender to you, officers and soldiers, the thanks of a Nation.

*Soldiers in arms! defenders of our soil!
Who from destruction save us; who from spoil
Protect the sons of peace, who traffic or who toll;
Would I could duly praise you, that each deed
Your foes might honor, and your friends might read.*
—Crabbe.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 25 (Christmas Day)

Search the scriptures : . . . they are they which testify of me. John 5 : 39.

Profitably Engaged.

(To Joshua Speed, his intimate personal friend about a year before his death.)

I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this book upon reason that you can, and the balance on faith, and you will live and die a better man.

(At another time.)

I am very sure that if I do not go away from here a wiser man, I shall go away a better man for having learned here what a very poor sort of a man I am.

*The star which marked the wise men's way
At our Redeemer's birth,
No longer guides with cheering ray
Our footsteps here on earth.
Yet light is given us from above
Our pathway to define;
And blessed words of truth and love
Like stars around us shine.*

—Anonymous.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 26

Behold, I have sent unto thee a present. I. Kings 15: 19.

Christmas Gift.

(Letter to General Sherman, December 26, 1864.)

Many, many thanks for your Christmas gift, the capture of Savannah. When you were about to leave Atlanta for the Atlantic Coast, I was *anxious*, if not fearful; but, feeling that you were the better judge, and remembering that, nothing risked, nothing gained, I did not interfere. Now, the undertaking being a success, the honor is all yours, for I believe none of us went further than to acquiesce. And, taking the work of General Thomas into account, as it should be taken, it is indeed a great success. Not only does it afford the obvious and immediate military advantages, but in showing to the world that your army could be divided, putting the stronger part to an important new service, and yet having enough to vanquish the old opposing forces of the whole—Hood's army—it brings those who sat in darkness to see a great light.

*Yes, and there were Union men who wept with joyful tears
When they saw the honored flag they had not seen for years;
Hardly could they be restrained from breaking forth in cheers
While we were marching through Georgia.*

—Henry C. Work.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 27

A doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people. Acts 5 : 34.

Degree of Doctor of Laws.

(Letter written December 27, 1864, to Dr. John Maclean,
president of Princeton College, New Jersey.)

I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of your note of the 20th of December, conveying the announcement that the trustees of the College of New Jersey had conferred upon me the degree of Doctor of Laws. The assurance conveyed by this high compliment, that the cause of the Government which I represent has received the approval of a body of gentlemen of such character and intelligence, in this time of public trial, is most grateful to me. Thoughtful men must feel that the fate of civilization upon this continent is involved in the issue of our contest. Among the most gratifying proofs of this conviction is the hearty devotion everywhere exhibited by our schools and colleges to the National cause. I am most thankful if my labors have seemed to conduce to the preservation of those institutions under which alone we can expect good government, and in its train sound learning and the progress of the liberal arts.

*'T is not in titles, nor in rank,
'T is not wealth, like London bank,
To make us truly blest.
If happiness hath not her seat
And center in the breast,
We may be wise, or rich, or great,
But never can be blest.*

—Anonymous

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 28

Condescend to men of low estate. Romans 12:16.

Out of My Usual Line.

(To a Washington correspondent who entered the President's office and found him very busy counting greenbacks.)

This, sir, is something out of my usual line; but a President of the United States has a multiplicity of duties not specified in the Constitution or acts of Congress. This is one of them. This money belongs to a poor negro who is a porter in the Treasury Department, at present very bad with the smallpox. He is now in the hospital, and could not draw his pay because he could not sign his name. I have been at considerable trouble to overcome the difficulty and get it for him, and have at length succeeded in cutting red tape, as you newspaper men say. I am now dividing the money and putting by a portion labeled, in an envelope, with my own hands, according to his wish.

*We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.*

—*Bailev.*

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 29

We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.
I. Corinthians 4:9.

A Strange Spectacle.

(To Doctor Sunderland, chaplain of the Senate, a few days
before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued.)

Doctor, if it had been left to you and me, there would have been no war. If it had been left to you and me, there would have been no cause for this war; but it was not left to us. God has allowed men to make slaves of their fellows. He permits this war. He has before him a strange spectacle. We, on our side, are praying him to give us victory, because we believe we are right; but those on the other side pray him, too, for victory, believing they are right. What must he think of us? And what is coming from the struggle? What will be the effect of it all on the whites and on the negroes? As for the negroes, Doctor, and what is to become of them, I told Ben Wade the other day that it made me think of a story I read in one of my first books, "Æsop's Fables." It was an old edition, and had curious, rough wood-cuts, one of which showed four white men scrubbing a negro in a potash kettle filled with cold water. The text explained that the men thought that by scrubbing the negro they might make him white. Just about the time they thought they were succeeding, he took cold and died. Now, I am afraid that by the time we get through this war the negro will catch cold and die.

*O pity God, this miserable age!
What stratagems, how fell, how butcherly,
Erroneous, mutinous, and unnatural.
This deadly quarrel daily doth beget!*

—Shakespeare.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 30

Unto thee shall the vow be performed. Psalms 65:1.

Solemn Vow Before God.

(At a Cabinet meeting just before the issue of the Provisional Emancipation Proclamation, September 22, 1864.)

The time for the annunciation of the emancipation policy can be no longer delayed. Public sentiment, I think, will sustain it, many of my warmest friends and supporters demand it, and I have promised my God that I would do it. I made a solemn vow before God that if General Lee was driven back from Pennsylvania, I would crown the result by the declaration of freedom to the slaves.

*Yes! thy proud lords, unpitied land! shall see
That man hath yet a soul—and dare be free!
A little while, along thy saddening plains,
The starless night of desolation reigns;
Truth shall restore the light by nature given,
And like Prometheus, bring the fire of heaven!
Prone to the dust oppression shall be hurl'd—
Her name, her nature, wither'd from the world.*

—Campbell.

THE LINCOLN YEAR BOOK

DECEMBER 31

When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return. Job 16: 22.

The Silent Artillery of Time.

(Extract from an address before the Springfield, Lyceum, in 1838, when he was twenty-nine years of age. He here alludes to our Revolutionary ancestors. See pages 35, 36, 37.)

In history we hope they will be read of and recounted as long as the Bible shall be read. But even granting that they will, their influence cannot be what it heretofore has been. Even then they cannot be so universally known nor so vividly felt as they were by the generation just gone to rest. At the close of that struggle nearly every adult male had been a participator in some of its scenes. The consequence was that of those scenes, in the form of a husband, a father, a son, or a brother, a living history was to be found in every family—a history bearing the indubitable testimonies to its own authenticity, in the limbs mangled, in the scars of wounds received in the midst of the very scenes related; a history, too, that could be read and understood alike by all, the wise and the ignorant, the learned and the unlearned. But those histories are gone. They can be read no more forever. They were a fortress of strength; but what the invading foeman could never do, the silent artillery of time has done—the leveling of its walls. They are gone. They were a forest of giant oaks; but the resistless hurricane has swept over them and left only here and there a lonely trunk, despoiled of its verdure, shorn of its foliage, unshading and unshaded, to murmur in a few more gentle breezes and to combat with its mutilated limbs a few more ruder storms, then to sink and be no more.

*The year is closed—the record made,
The last deed done, the last word said;
The memory alone remains
Of all its joys, its griefs, its gains;
And now with purpose full and clear
We turn to meet another year.*

—Anonymous.

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